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АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК: УСТНАЯ И ПИСЬМЕННАЯ РЕЧЬ

Практикум



МИНИСТЕРСТВО НАУКИ И ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
УРАЛЬСКИЙ ФЕДЕРАЛЬНЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ
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Рекомендовано методическим советом
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В практикуме разрабатывается два тематических раздела: «Лондон и его достопримечательности» и «Жилищные условия в Великобритании и России». Каждый из 18 уроков состоит из оригинальных текстов и диалогов с упражнениями для аудиторной и самостоятельной работы. Дополнением к урокам являются видеоматериалы с разработанными к ним заданиями.

Для студентов бакалавриата 1 курса направлений «Фундаментальная и прикладная лингвистика» и «Филология» (программа «Современные иностранные языки и литература»).

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ПРЕДИСЛОВИЕ

Настоящий практикум предназначен для студентов 1 курса, обучающихся по направлениям «Фундаментальная и прикладная лингвистика» и «Филология» (программа «Современные иностранные языки и литература»), и рассчитан на семестр аудиторной и внеклассной работы.

Цель практикума состоит в развитии всех видов речевой деятельности студентов – говорения, чтения, письма и аудирования.

Особенностью дисциплины «Практика устной и письменной речи» является не только направленность на формирование у студентов коммуникативной компетенции и овладение навыками и умениями иноязычного речемышления, но и расширение общего кругозора и обогащение страноведческих знаний о стране изучаемого языка. В предлагаемом практикуме разрабатывается два тематических раздела: «Лондон и его достопримечательности» и «Жилищные условия в Великобритании и России».

Материалом служат оригинальные тексты на современные и традиционные темы, подобранные из учебных пособий по чтению, сборников текстов, монографий, периодики, а также наработки из многолетнего опыта преподавания дисциплины авторами практикума и их коллегами на кафедре германской филологии.

Ядром каждого урока являются один или несколько текстов, объединенных одной темой. Соответствующие комплексы упражнений (вопросно-ответные задания, задания на перевод предложений с использованием ключевой лексики, упражнения на стимулирование устного и письменного связного высказывания, фонетические задания) обеспечивают формирование лексико-грамматических речевых навыков.

В ряде случаев для разбора и анализа студентам предлагаются диалоги. Основным критерий отбора текстов и диалогов – наличие лингвострановедческого материала, позволяющего расширить

знания о Великобритании, а также тематической лексики, необходимой для описания изучаемых явлений, построения полновесных, хорошо аргументированных монологических высказываний по конкретной теме.

Дополнением к некоторым урокам служат аутентичные видеоматериалы страноведческого характера, которые не только способствуют формированию аудитивной компетенции учащихся, но и повышают мотивацию обучения, делают процесс усвоения иноязычного материала более живым, интересным и эмоциональным. Все видеофильмы сопровождаются упражнениями: заданиями «перед просмотром» (позволяющими преодолеть возможные языковые и межкультурные трудности, настраивающими студентов на определенные ожидания) и заданиями «после просмотра» (обеспечивающими контроль правильного понимания услышанного и направленными на активизацию языкового материала).

Структура практикума отвечает дидактическим и методическим требованиям преподавания учебной дисциплины.

Unit 1

INTRODUCTION TO GREAT BRITAIN

I. Read and translate the following text, write out the new words and memorize them.

Great Britain is made up of four countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It is a group of islands off the north-west coast of Europe. It is called the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The capital is London.

How the land lies

There are many different landscapes in Britain: from high mountains to rolling hills and valleys. Places like Wales, the Lake District and northwest Scotland have high mountains and steep solid rock slopes.

Great Britain is completely surrounded by seas, being thus isolated from the rest of Europe. No part of Britain is far from the sea, which is an important resource for fishing and tourism.

Rain or shine

Great Britain has quite cool summers and mild winters. The weather changes from day to day and during the day. The climate is temperate, the country does not have long periods when it is cold or hot.

Britain's climate is getting warmer. Average temperatures have risen half a degree Celsius since 1850. This is enough to start the polar ice caps thawing. If the ice caps continue to thaw, large areas of southern and eastern England will be permanently flooded.

The mean annual temperature ranges between 11.1 °C in the south and 8.9 °C in the northeast. Fogs, mists and overcast skies are frequent, particularly in the inland regions.

Politically minded

Britain is a constitutional monarchy. The queen is the head of the state but politics are controlled by Parliament. There are two houses of Parliament:

The House of Commons who are elected by the public and the House of Lords made up of peers.

The political party system has existed since the 17th century. The main British political parties are Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democratic. There are also Welsh and Scottish parties who seek separation from England.

The majority party forms His or Her Majesty's Government, and the second party is officially known as His or Her Majesty's Own Loyal Opposition. The opposition leader is paid a salary from public funds for that role.

In Gods we trust

The Church of England has the most members – 54 %, in Great Britain. Most members, however, live in England. The second biggest religion is the Roman Catholic Church – 13 %. Catholics are spread throughout the country. Other religions include Protestantism, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Sikhism.

Economy: pitfalls and hopes

Britain has a long history as a great and powerful country. During the 18th century Britain gained an empire by colonizing parts of North America, Africa, Asia, all of Australia and New Zealand. By the 19th century, England was bringing back much wealth from these colonies. The trade in slaves and other goods from the colonies supplied the money to build the factories and machines of Britain's Industrial Revolution. The country developed heavy industries like coal mining, iron and steel manufacturing, engineering and shipbuilding.

However in the 20th century, other countries began to compete with Britain in the overseas markets. Besides, from the 1950s on, many former British colonies in Africa and Asia became independent, thus affecting Britain's imports and exports. All over Britain factories and businesses closed. By the 1990s the worst of the decline had already been over and Britain began to concentrate on the new hi-tech and service industries.

In the last 30 years, micro-electronics has become one of the fastest growing sectors of the British industry. It is a new phase of industrial growth which scientists call re-industrialization. The future for Britain

as a manufacturing nation looks good and it depends on whether it can develop and specialize in hi-tech industries such as aerospace, computers, electronics, telecommunications and biotechnology.

II. *Answer the following questions.*

1. Where is Great Britain geographically?
2. Where is London, the capital?
3. What part of Great Britain do Scotland, Wales and England make up?
4. What part of Ireland does Ulster make up?
5. What kind of climate does Great Britain have? Why can we call it maritime?
6. Are overcast skies a frequent occurrence in Great Britain? Why?
7. What makes the climate of Great Britain warmer than in other countries on the continent?
8. What body rules the country?
9. What can you say about the House of Lords?
10. What can you say about the House of Commons?
11. People of what faiths can we find in Great Britain?
12. How can we explain the fact that Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism are to be found in a traditionally Christian country like Great Britain?
13. How did the fact that Britain had a great number of colonies affect its economy in the 19th century?
14. What happened to the British colonies in the middle of the 20th century?
15. What has Britain done with its economy in the last 30 years?
16. What is Britain specializing in now?

III. *Write the transcription of the following words.*

Isolated, temperate, Celsius, southern, Protestantism, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Catholic (Catholicism).

IV. *Find English equivalents to the following Russian words and phrases in the text.*

Состоять из, ландшафт, окруженный, остальная часть, довольно-таки прохладный, мягкий климат, средний, таять, постоянно, колебаться между, затянутый облаками, в частности, ежегодный,

отделение от, партия большинства, по всей стране, поставлять, кораблестроение, товары, спад в производстве.

V. Compare Great Britain and Russia in the following spheres. Give your stories.

Geographical location, national composition, distances between destinations, weather and climate, political system, variety of religions, Russia and Britain as former empires, the economic situation today.

Unit 2

THE ENGLISH: ARROGANT AND UNFRIENDLY

I. Read the following text, translate it, write out the new words and memorize them.

Tourists love the British Royal family, their ancient traditions and historic buildings. But if there is one thing the foreign tourist does not like, it is the character of the British people.

Up to 1,000 respondents from 35 different nations were asked to rate Britain and the British in terms of 16 different categories which included, among others, historical legacy, scenic beauty and vibrancy. Research found that visitors listed Britain a poor 16th place on the list of countries likely to offer the most friendly welcome.

According to VisitBritain, the organization responsible for promoting Britain overseas in the eyes of the world, the British people – and in particular the English – are arrogant, unfriendly and have almost no sense of humour. And it is some of their nearest neighbours who are particularly critical about their national character.

Despite their close proximity, the French had particular problems with the English and were the least likely to visit the United Kingdom. “The French do not believe they would receive a warm welcome if they visited the UK,” the report revealed.

Perhaps not surprisingly, countries with a history of political conflict with Britain were particularly skeptical. German respondents believed that only the Russians were less friendly than the British. Argentina, meanwhile, ranked Britain 31st in terms of friendliness.

Many of the respondents were similarly unimpressed by Britain’s system of government and its foreign policy. Support for America has done serious harm to Britain’s reputation.

Nevertheless, despite the poor image, Britain remains the sixth most popular destination for tourists around the world (behind France,

Spain, the United States, China and Italy). And, according to VisitBritain, the English-speaking nations such as the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand still perceive the British to be welcoming.

Britain also scored highly in terms of its cultural history and architectural legacy, as well as being an interesting place for contemporary culture. But there was, however, a lack of appreciation for the country's scenic beauty. Britain only came 19th in the rankings for scenery and landscape.

The British sense of humour received the lowest scores. Italians, for example, rated them the second least funny people in the world. But the British themselves believe their sense of humour is the national asset, which, among other things, makes Britain such a unique destination.

II. *Answer the following questions to the text.*

1. What do tourists love in Britain and what don't they like?
2. Do you agree with what the text says in the first paragraph?
3. What would you say about Britain's historical legacy?
4. Why, do you think, the nations closest to Britain geographically are particularly critical of them?
5. Do you know anything about the history of relations between Britain and France?
6. Do you agree with the British that the best form of government is a constitutional monarchy?
7. Would you call the whole set-up "the Royal soap opera"?
8. What makes the USA and Britain close?
9. Who are the English-speaking nations in the world and what made them so?
10. Do you agree that Britain has a rich cultural and architectural legacy?
11. Do you know anything about the British sense of humour?
12. How would you rate Britain as a tourist destination?

III. *Write the transcription of the following words.*

Ancient, respondent, legacy, scenic, vibrancy, research (*noun*), nation/national.

IV. Find Russian equivalents to the following words and phrases.

Up to..., in terms of, to include, legacy, heritage, vibrancy, to list, likely, unlikely, according to, to be responsible for, to promote, in particular, despite, in spite of, proximity, to be the least likely to do smth., to reveal, meanwhile, to rank, similarly, to be impressed by, to do harm to, poor image, to score highly, contemporary, a lack of appreciation, to receive the lowest scores, a national asset.

V. Find English equivalents to the following words and expressions.

Наследие, подобным образом, несмотря на, быть ответственным за что-то, близость, согласно, раскрыть, способствовать чему-либо, скорее всего, маловероятно, включать, перечислять, что касается чего-либо, тем временем, быть под впечатлением, нанести вред, в частности, современник, занять высокое место, недооценить, национальное достояние, получить низкий рейтинговый балл, оживленный.

VI. Translate the following sentences into English using the words and expressions from the text.

1. Есть одна вещь, которая мне не нравится.
2. Туристов попросили дать оценку историческому наследию этой страны.
3. Он, вероятнее всего, не окажет нам радушного приема.
4. Именно ближайшие соседи критиковали характер британцев.
5. Несмотря на географическую близость, французы недолюбливают англичан.
6. Тем временем, что касается дружелюбия, то Англия на 16-м месте.
7. Согласно данным туристического агентства, туристы не могут оценить красоту природы Англии.
8. Архитектурное наследие страны представляет большой интерес для туристов.
9. Культура сегодняшнего дня – это тот аспект, который мы должны уметь оценить.
10. Сами англичане считают, что их чувство юмора – это их национальное достояние.

Unit 3

THE ENGLISHNESS OF ENGLAND

I. *Read the text and translate it into Russian in written form.*

THE ENGLISH CHARACTER AND TRADITION (from the Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms to the Windsor Dynasty)

England's coastline has helped to shape both the history of the English nation and the psychology of the English character. The knowledge that there was a wide stretch of water between Englishmen and "foreigners" encouraged a sense of security that could easily slide into one of superiority. And it was true that their physical isolation made England different. The long centuries during which the land was free from invaders meant that there could be a continuity of tradition impossible on the war-torn Continent. Englishmen have always been conscious of the history that surrounds them – from traditional royal and parliamentary ceremonies to Tudor-style villas in the suburbs.

Some English characteristics upon which both natives and visitors have tended to agree have to do with national psychology: egoism, self-confidence, intolerance of outsiders, wealth, independence, social mobility, love of comfort and a strong belief in private property. Others that have to do with the physical appearance of English town and country, are more easily illustrated than described: an urge to wander over the earth and bring back its products to make England a microcosm of the world; a preoccupation with "home" that has led to the evolution of both the English house – informal, relaxed and domestic – and its landscape setting: a love of games in which competition was less important than enjoyment; and that special feeling for the sea that made Englishmen not only great sailors and explorers but also the inventors of the seaside holiday.

The fact that Britain is an island has been decisive in so many aspects of her history: in the Reformation, which determined the course of religion in England; in the development of trade, which led to the formation

of the Empire; in the growth of a navy with its influence on the political system; even in the well-known “insularity” of English art and music. The cultural moat has often been wider than the twenty-one miles of water that separate Dover from Calais.

All that prefigures the English boarding-school tradition. Foreigners regarded as heartless the English custom of boarding out children at the age of seven to nine to be apprentices for the next eight years in other houses and families. The customary explanation is that parents did this to ensure that their children learned better manners.

There were other important differences, which may have been a cause or consequence of the English spirit of individualism. The majority of ordinary people in England from at least the 13th century were extreme individualists, highly mobile, geographically and socially, economically “rational”, market-oriented and acquisitive, ego-centered in kinship and social life.

Another feature is the fluidity of English society. England from an early stage avoided the rigid stratification between the merchants of the cities and the rural seigneur. One of the most significant aspects of the trend towards a highly competitive and socially egalitarian society was the impetus it gave to the English colonies of the 17th century in America. America’s heritage of libertarianism, hostility to government, skepticism about the role of the state and hatred of interference, originates from the people who went out to that dangerous continent and were not the grandees of the upper class. Another significant feature in the development of England is the language. It is of Germanic origin but half the words come from other sources, and the result is an astonishingly wide vocabulary acquired quite early in its history.

One of the by-products of England’s geographical separation is the relatively small amount of fighting on English soil. This separation from continental Europe gave a special position to the Navy, which protected England. It produced a sense of security and led to a prosperity, which the major rival countries did not enjoy.

(From *The English World: History, Character, and People* by R. Blake¹)

¹ CM.: Blake R. *The English World: History, Character, and People*. London, 1982. P. 5–7.

II. *Give answers to the following questions.*

1. How can you compare England's coastline with the one Russia has?
2. Has a wide stretch of water ever influenced the psychology of Russian character?
3. Why have land borders played a more important role in Russian history than the sea ones?
4. What invaders into Russia do you remember from Russian history? Who were the invaders into Britain?
5. What can you say about the colonizing policy of Great Britain and that of Russia?
6. What role has the Navy played in Great Britain and in Russia?

III. *Write the transcription of the following words.*

Psychology, superiority, suburb, microcosm, rational, seigneur, acquisitive, libertarianism, interference, grantees.

IV. *Comment on the following statements and phrases.*

1. A wide stretch of water between England and the Continent encouraged a sense of security and superiority in the British.
2. A continuity of tradition impossible on the war-torn Continent.
3. Intolerance of outsiders.
4. English society is class society.
5. Social mobility.
6. A strong belief in private property.
7. Independence and individualism.
8. Love of comfort.
9. A preoccupation with "home".
10. The English language has an astonishingly wide vocabulary.
11. The Navy in England and the Navy in Russia.
12. Hatred of interference.

V. *How would you answer the following questions?*

1. Do you think that all the features of the English mentioned in the text could somehow have influenced the people who colonized such countries as the USA, Australia, New Zealand and Canada?
2. In their early history both England and Russia started out as monarchies. What developments took place in that sphere throughout history? What form of government would you support?

Unit 4

LONDON

For work on this topic we recommend you to use the textbook by V. D. Arakin "Practical course of English"².

1. Read the following dialogue, write out the new words and memorize them.

- London is literally “soaked” in history, isn’t it?
- Oh, yes. It’s full of history from the earliest times to the present day.
- That’s right! Its name is of Celtic origin, but there is no evidence of a pre-Roman settlement. Some historians think the name is derived from a Celtic personal or tribal name. Others maintain its name was first Llyndun, the town on the lake.
- I remember that the town was growing quickly under the Romans and later it became a large thriving centre of commerce and trade.
- Now it is the capital of the United Kingdom, a great political, industrial and cultural centre of the country.
- In the 19th century its growth was very rapid and it developed into what we call Greater London.
- London and the City are not the same, are they? The City is the central part of London, its business and shopping centre.
- Where are we now?
- We are on The Strand. It’s an old street that runs along the Thames. “Strand” means a strip of land running along the coast or the bank of a river. You can’t see the Thames from here now, but in the old days when there were no houses here you could. If we face the river, to the left there is St. Paul’s Cathedral and further on The Tower. To get to St. Paul’s Cathedral you have to pass through Fleet Street.

² Аракин В. Д. Практический курс английского языка. 2 курс : учеб. для студентов вузов. 7-е изд., доп. и испр. М., 2005. С. 85–116.

– Oh, I’ve heard about that. It used to be the street where all London newspapers had their offices. They’ve moved out now, haven’t they?

– You’re right. Fleet Street is not really very long, not straight either, like a crooked spine actually, but the London press is still called Fleet Street.

– And where will we find ourselves if we go to the right?

– To the right is Trafalgar Square, the geographical centre of London.

– Oh, it’s quite big. That’s Nelson’s Column over there, isn’t it?

– You’re right. The column is 184 ft. high. It’s a copy of one of the Corinthian columns in the Temple of Mars in Rome. The square itself commemorates Nelson’s victory in the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.

– And look there! Behind the left fountain is the National Gallery, isn’t it?

– Now look, just in front of us is a small street, which is called Whitehall.

– Yes, there used to be a white hall here, but it was pulled down three or four centuries ago. If you walk along this street, on the right-hand side you will see a high metal fence and a couple of policemen on guard.

– What are they guarding?

– The Prime Minister lives in No.10 Downing Street. Look there.

– I see. Let’s walk a bit further down.

– Let’s. Here we are. Westminster Abbey and a bit further on the Houses of Parliament. Let’s visit Westminster Abbey.

– So, as I see, the British kings and queens are buried here. You can see their effigies. A special chapel for King Henry VII. And here’s the Poets’ Corner. Is William Shakespeare buried here too?

– Oh no, he isn’t. He’s buried in Stratford-upon-Avon.

– That’s right. Now let’s take a taxi (cab) and go to the British Museum. It was opened to the public in 1759.

– Why don’t we go to the Mall first?

– Let’s. The Mall leads to Buckingham Palace. That’s where the Queen resides. Hear that music.

- Yes, it's 12 o'clock now. The Changing of the Guard is taking place, isn't it?
- Is this Hyde Park on our left?
- No, it's St. James' Park. Hyde Park is a bit further on.
- Let's go there. I want to see the Speakers' Corner.
- You will and if you stop for a while there, you'll hear all kinds of fantastic ideas expressed.
- Can the speakers really say anything they want?
- They can. People voice their opinions on politics, local and international, religion, morals and what not.
- Yes, that's British democracy for you!

(From *Conversational Situations* by E. Filatov³)

II. *Use the Internet to find additional information about:*

1. Hyde Park
2. St. James' Park
3. The Changing of the Guard
4. The Mall
5. Pall Mall
6. Whitehall
7. The Thames
8. Speakers' Corner

III. *Say in what connection the following words and expressions are used in the dialogue.*

Soaked, evidence, settlement, to be derived from, to maintain, thriving, rapid growth, shopping centre, strip of land, bank of a river, crooked spine, London press, geographical centre, to commemorate, to be pulled down, policemen on guard, to be buried, further down, effigy, chapel, to voice an opinion.

IV. *Write the transcription of the following words.*

Celtic, thriving, commerce, crooked, bury.

³ Filatov E. *Conversational Situations*. Ekaterinburg, 1997. P. 16–27.

V. Give English equivalents to the following words and expressions.

Нет данных (сведений), настоящий момент, происхождение, незнакомец, процветающий, происходить из чего-то, утверждать, племенной, не одно и то же, улица идет вдоль..., полоска земли, берег реки, побережье, стоять лицом к..., раньше это было, съехать, в память о ком-то, перед нами, снести здание, охранять что-либо, это и есть британская демократия.

I. Read the text about a doorman at The Ritz Michael O'Dowdall and translate it.

AN INSIDER'S TOUR FROM A DOORMAN AT THE RITZ

Continuing our series profiling iconic Londoners, Marianka Swain meets Michael O'Dowdall, a doorman at The Ritz.

"The Ritz was always this mythical place," recalls Michael O'Dowdall, who has been a doorman at the iconic London hotel for just over 10 years. "It was somewhere special for special people to go to – I never dreamed I'd be part of it."

Michael is a born-and-bred Londoner and counts himself as a Cockney. "Cockney folklore says you have to be born within the sound of Bow Bells," he explains. "Growing up, I had the usual ambitions of wanting to be a footballer or an astronaut, but I've always been an outgoing kind of chap, so doing something that lets me meet different people every day suits me perfectly."

Michael has been working doors since the late 1980s. "My cousin's husband worked at the casino in Marble Arch, and he told me about it when we were studying 'The Knowledge' [a test all London black cab drivers must take] together – I'm a taxi driver too. He left to drive full time, and then a British family bought The Ritz casino and hotel, so I applied to be a doorman."

Michael's advanced knowledge of London streets comes in handy, as "giving good directions is definitely part of the job, along with knowing when restaurants open or the best way to get to the airport. I'm a walking map, dictionary and timetable. Once people hear the London accent they're reassured, because they know it's my town."

The Ritz's central location is an ideal base for tourists according to Michael. "You can go via Green Park to Buckingham Palace, St James's Park to Westminster, up the Mall to Trafalgar Square, or shopping on New Bond Street." A popular request is a good curry. "I send them up to Brick Lane. And if visitors want a great view of London, I recommend a river boat trip down to Greenwich – you see all the buildings and get a sense of just how big London is."

The Ritz is a 24/7 operation, so doormen work eight-hour shifts, with two days off a week. Michael enjoys the rhythm of the days, with people checking in and leaving in the mornings, "then it's luncheons, suppers and tea settings, or big functions like weddings and birthday parties. For weddings we make sure there's a space for the bride's car and coordinate guests arriving, often on the old Routemaster double-decker buses."

Michael loves the "full spectrum" of visitors that can be found at The Ritz on any given day, "everyone from the sweet old girl who saved up for months to go to tea with her friends through to royalty – it's a proper London melting pot."

"Afternoon tea vouchers are sold as presents, and so you see people coming around the corner clutching them, eyes wide with amazement. We make sure to put them at ease and make them feel welcome – there's no snootiness here."

Guests often ask Michael about the history of the hotel, which first opened its doors in 1906; David Lloyd George is said to have held secret meetings there during the First World War, and Noël Coward was a regular visitor in the 1920s and 1930s. Visitors also admire the neoclassical building and its stunning décor – "there's no expense spared maintaining everything to the highest standard," says Michael.

The doormen's attire reflects that attention to detail, with a top hat, waistcoat, trousers with a yellow stripe and a distinctive coat. "It's smart but practical, as we're often moving luggage or helping people in and out of cars. Because we're recognisable, we do get a lot of requests for pictures – there probably isn't a country in the world our photograph isn't in. It's lovely to know you're making someone's day."

The reverse is true too, with Michael getting to meet numerous high-profile guests. “They say never meet your heroes, but I’ve met them and they’re still my heroes. I’m just a working-class boy so I have to pinch myself sometimes.”

But perhaps the best perk is getting to drive a very special car. “In 2006, Rolls-Royce produced a special one-off Phantom in Ritz Blue for the hotel’s centenary. People often save up to take a trip in it for a birthday treat, so I get to drive them around London in style – I teach them how to do the royal wave. It’s that kind of thing that makes this such a special place to work – there’s really nothing like it.

(From *Discover Britain*⁴)

II. *Answer the following questions.*

1. What is the Ritz? What is it famous for?
2. What does Michael like about his job?
3. What is Afternoon Tea? Use the Internet to find more about it.

III. *Comment on the following statements from the text.*

1. “Cockney folklore says you have to be born within the sound of Bow Bells.”
2. “I’m a walking map, dictionary and timetable.”
3. “It’s a proper London melting pot.”
4. “It’s lovely to know you’re making someone’s day.”
5. “I have to pinch myself sometimes.”

IV. *Find Russian equivalents to the following words and phrases.*

To recall, born and bred, outgoing, advanced knowledge of smth., to get a sense of smth., to work shifts, to check in, to leave, to save up, to put (someone) at ease, to make smb. feel welcome, snootiness, stunning décor, attire, to move luggage, to help people in and out of cars, high-profile guests, centenary, to do the royal wave.

⁴ Swain M. Maybe It’s Because I’m a Londoner // *Discover Britain*. April/May, 2017. P. 71–73.

Video 1
“London: Mod and Trad”
(by Rick Steeves)

I. Before you watch the film, check that you understand the following words and expressions.

Useful vocabulary

- quintessentially English
- cosmopolitan
- to mingle
- to find a fresh travel experience
- cutting-edge
- to be in vogue
- to give way to
- trendy outdoor cafes
- to endorse the wave of contemporary architecture
- to stud the busy skyline
- to clamor for attention
- to stroll through London parks
- reminder
- world-class sightseeing destination
- hunting grounds of kings
- sunbathing grounds
- commoner
- lavish living quarters
- embellished by
- exuberant time
- to herald
- accomplishment
- the world's most determined mourner
- finial
- London's top attractions
- to grow out of
- to illustrate the immensity of the British empire

- exuberant displays
- manageable
- the showcase for extraordinary treasures
- the chronicle of Western civilization
- to decipher ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs
- pharaoh
- sarcophagus (*pl.* sarcophagi)
- tomb
- to trace
- vibrant people zone
- London's top sights
- transportation thoroughfare for tourists
- to go back to
- castle complex
- intimidating collection of medieval weaponry and armour
- dazzling crown jewels
- Yeoman warders, beefeaters
- lager
- ale
- bitter
- to leave a tip
- quick hops
- to hop on and off between sights
- to take advantage of the system
- congestion charge
- to overcome notorious traffic problems
- suspension bridge
- power station
- entertaining cocktail
- depressed industrial zone
- to be popular with strollers, joggers and bikers
- observation wheel
- to run efficiently
- to enjoy a 30-minute once-around rotation

II. *Watch the film “London: Mod and Trad”⁵ and find out as much as possible about the following:*

1. London’s parks
2. Apsley House
3. The Albert Memorial
4. The Royal Albert Hall
5. The Victoria and Albert Museum
6. Harrods, the Egyptian Escalator
7. The British Museum, the Great Court, the Rosetta Stone
8. Covent Garden
9. The National Gallery
10. The river Thames
11. Tower Bridge
12. The Tower of London
13. The City
14. English pubs
15. London transport
16. Somerset House
17. The Millennium Bridge
18. Tate Modern
19. The South Bank
20. The London Eye

III. *Study the map of Central London (Picture 1) and find all the landmarks mentioned in the film.*

⁵ London: Mod and Trad (26 mins, 2011) // Rick Steves’ Europe : [site]. URL: <https://www.ricksteves.com/watch-read-listen/video/tv-show/london-mod-and-trad> (date of access: 19.07.2019).



Picture 1. The map of Central London⁶

IV. Answer the following questions.

1. Do you like travel documentaries? Do you read blogs about travelling?
2. What does the title of the film “London: Mod and Trad” mean?
3. What sights would you like to see most if you visited London? Why?

⁶ Tourist map of London // Map Collection : Collection of Interesting and Artistic Maps : [site]. URL: <https://mapcollection.wordpress.com/2012/07/22/tourist-map-of-london/> (date of access: 19.07.2019).

Unit 5

THE CITY OF LONDON

Read the text paragraph by paragraph and do the exercises that follow each paragraph.

Paragraph 1

In physical size and resident population, the City is the smallest city in the United Kingdom, if not in the world. Popularly referred to as “the Square Mile”, it has a total area of 667 acres in the heart of the vast metropolis of London, and a night population of 5,180. But by day it is estimated that some 500,000 people swarm its streets and offices. Boroughs and towns and cities throughout the kingdom have their daily tides of immigrants and emigrants, but nowhere do these tides flow so strongly, nowhere is the contrast between night and day, the disparity between the resident population and the business population so marked as in the City of London. The reason for this dramatic contrast is to be found in its history, and without a historical background no institution in it can be fully understood. But here we will give you a portrait rather than a history; our purpose is to display a living entity, not a museum piece; a vast market by day, a near solitude by night. A near solitude, for it has a nightlife of its own. Unsuspected by the casual pedestrian whose foot beats may echo through the silent alleys, there are social activities of many kinds – lectures, concerts, organ recitals, plays, oratorios, banquets at Guildhall, Mansion House, in company halls and friendly gatherings in public houses. The city is a hive of industry, unique in its function, its government, the pattern of its daily life, the part it plays in national and international affairs. It is not an industrial area, but primarily a collection of offices, warehouses and shops centered around the commercial and financial market, linked to the farthest ends of the earth by the Internet, cable, wireless and postal communications, by railroad, by air, and above all by the river and port. It is no synthetic product of deliberate planning,

but a city, which has grown, and in growing preserved an identity of function, for nearly 2,000 years.

(From *Британия*⁷)

I. *Explain the following words and phrases in English and give their Russian translation. Give synonyms if you can.*

Physical size, resident population, to refer to, total area, vast metropolis, to estimate, some 10,000 people, to swarm, borough, throughout the kingdom, flow of the tide (low and high, ebb tide, flood tide), disparity, the reason for, background (historical, religious, social, etc.), to design, rather than, purpose, living entity, museum piece, solitude, to suspect, casual (pedestrian, wear), hive, pattern, warehouse, deliberate planning, identity.

II. *Answer the following questions to the paragraph.*

1. What can you say about the size of the City?
2. What is its popular name?
3. What is its size in square kilometers?
4. About how many people live there permanently?
5. Why is the contrast between day and night so great there?
6. What is the nightlife of the City like?
7. Why is the City so important nationally and internationally?
8. How is it linked to the farthest ends of the earth?
9. How old is the City historically?

III. *Write the transcription of the following words.*

Borough, echo, recital, oratorio, banquet.

IV. *Translate the following sentences into English using words and expressions from the above paragraph.*

1. По своему размеру и количеству людей, проживающих в нем, наш город самый большой в районе.
2. Надо сослаться на тот материал, который был вам дан.

⁷ См.: Британия : учеб. пособие по страноведению для студ. ин-тов и фак. иностр. яз. / В. Р. Куприянова, И. В. Арнольд, М. А. Боровик. 2-е изд., испр. Л. : Просвещение, 1977. С. 74–75.

3. Подсчитано, что около миллиона людей посещают этот район в течение дня.
4. В Великобритании замки можно найти по всему королевству.
5. Отлив там очень сильный и можно видеть песок на дне.
6. Каждую осень мы ездили туда, чтобы посмотреть на большой прилив.
7. Несоразмерность между этими двумя группами очень заметна.
8. Мы расскажем вам о том, как город живет сегодня, а не его историю.
9. В Сохо (в Лондоне) своя ночная жизнь.
10. Случайный прохожий и не подозревает об этом.
11. Образ жизни этих людей очень отличается от нашего образа жизни.
12. Деловой центр Сити связан со всем миром средствами массовой информации.
13. Ничего не было заранее запланировано.
14. Городу удалось сохранить свою идентичность в течение двух тысячелетий.

Paragraph 2

The river and the bridges, the streets with their buses and cars, the railways, are essential to the transport of bodies and packages; but the City is also the nerve centre of the financial market, and the transmission of quick and accurate information is essential to its efficient functioning. It is most difficult for us today to imagine how business could be carried on when market news had to be transmitted over an inadequate road system, or from one port to another by coasting vessels. The first General Post Office was established in the City, and its achievements in 1681 were held up as a model of enterprise:

“This Convenience by Post is done in so short a time by night, as well as by day that every 24 hours the Post goes 120 miles, and in five days an Answer of a Letter may be had from a Place 300 miles distant from the writer.”

(From *Британия*⁸)

⁸ См.: Британия. С. 75–76.

I. *Explain the following words and expressions in English and give their Russian translation. Give synonyms if you can.*

Essential, transmission of information, to be transmitted, accurate, efficient functioning, (in)adequate, to establish, achievements, enterprise, convenience (comfort), by night (day), as well as, General Post Office.

II. *Answer the following questions to the paragraph.*

1. What means of thoroughfare are essential to the City?
2. With the help of what is efficient functioning carried on in the City?
3. How was market news transmitted in the old days?
4. What historical role did the General Post Office play?
5. How far did the post go every 24 hours in the old days?

III. *Translate the following sentences into English using the words and expressions from the above paragraph.*

1. Все средства передвижения очень важны для города.
2. Быстрая передача точной информации необходима для успешной работы рынка.
3. Нам очень трудно сегодня представить, как работали рынки и биржа триста лет назад.
4. Система дорог в этом городе не соответствует современным стандартам.
5. Делалось это все ночью, но проверялось днем.
6. Завод работал днем так же, как и ночью.

Paragraph 3

Today the General Post Office is in Newgate Street, leading to the west. And not far away is Faraday Building, which links the globe by the Internet, telephone, radio and cable. Perhaps it is no accident that the *Daily Courant*, the first London daily newspaper, was published at a point near Fleet Street, the other great road leading to the west. Fleet Street was once famous for its showmen, waxworks, giants, dwarfs, strange animals and panoramas – then popular attractions; today it is synonymous with the world of English journalism, and has been called the Street of Ink. Several decades ago, for lack of space, all the newspapers moved out

of Fleet Street to other areas, but the name for all English mass media has been kept.

(From *Британия*⁹)

I. *Explain the following words and expressions in English and give their Russian translation. Give synonyms if you can.*

To link, it is no accident that..., lack of space, to move out (in), to keep.

II. *Answer the following questions to the paragraph.*

1. Where is the General Post Office today?
2. What is the function of Faraday Building?
3. What is Fleet Street synonymous with today?
4. What could visitors to London and the local people find in Fleet Street in the old days?
5. What happened to all the newspapers published in Fleet Street and why?

III. *Translate the following sentences into English using the words and expressions from the paragraph above.*

1. Эта улица находится не так далеко от Главпочтамта.
2. Не случайно, что первая газета была напечатана именно здесь.
3. Эта улица раньше была известна тем, что там было много пивных заведений.
4. Материал не был напечатан за недостатком места.
5. Все газеты переехали на окраины города.
6. Учреждение изменило профиль работы, но мы захотели сохранить имя.

Paragraph 4

All day the streets are full of people, hustling along, mostly on business; but at lunchtime they are thronged. For lunchtime is not only the time when people eat; they shop, and window-shop. Gazing at shop windows, pricing, comparing, is the recreation of a great number of the female

⁹ См.: Британия. С. 76.

population – and the male population too. And Cheapside, before it was destroyed by enemy action was one of the greatest shopping centres. Another area – round St. Paul's – miraculously survived; and nowhere at lunchtime can one see a greater congregation of women and girl shoppers and shop-gazers that stand round the windows of the stores there. Shops for men, too, abound: hosiers, tailors, hatters, sports equipment – a man can be very well tailored in the City if he knows where to go, at less cost than in the West End.

(From *Британия*¹⁰)

I. Explain the following words and expressions in English and give their Russian translation. Give synonyms if you can.

To hustle along, mostly, to throng, window-shopping, to gaze at, recreation, a great number (the great number), feminine (masculine), female (male), to destroy, to survive, miraculous, congregation, to abound, hosier, to be tailored.

II. Answer the following questions.

1. What can you say about the streets of the City at lunchtime and why is it so?
2. Do you and can you window-shop in our country?
3. What can you say about Cheapside?
4. What kind of goods do shops for men usually contain?
5. What do you know about the West End of London?

III. Translate the following sentences into English using the words and expressions from the paragraph above.

1. Толпы людей спешили по улицам этого города весь день.
2. В обеденное время все кафе и столовые забиты толпами людей.
3. У нас в стране почти негде ходить и разглядывать витрины магазинов.
4. Пойдем и сравним цены в этих двух магазинах.
5. К сожалению, этот район был уничтожен действиями врага во время войны.

¹⁰ См.: Британия. С. 76.

6. Район бомбили, но собор чудом уцелел.
7. Каждый город должен иметь зону отдыха.
8. Встреча была на высшем уровне, и все должны были прийти в деловых костюмах.

Paragraph 5

Perhaps the most widespread pleasure is the spectacle of the City itself, its people, traffic and places, in people's eyes, and faces and gait; the cleaners, the bank messengers, the clerks, the brokers; the bowler hats and umbrellas, the no-hats, the pony-tails, the urchin cut, the crew cut, the Mohawk; the CP operators going back from morning tea or coffee, the policemen, the serious faces of the businessmen, the guards marching to the Bank of England; the never-ending flow and the noise of the traffic – lorry, bus, car; the vans, the giant cranes, the excavators, the steel scaffolding.

(From *Британия*¹¹)

I. *Explain the following words and expressions in English and give their Russian translation. Give synonyms if you can.*

Widespread, spectacle, traffic, gait, clerk, broker, no-hats, pony-tails, urchin cut, crew cut, scaffolding.

II. *Answer the following questions to the text.*

1. What would the most widespread pleasure be for the person who goes to look at the City?
2. Why is it so?

III. *Translate the following sentences into English using the words and expressions from the paragraph above.*

1. Прогулки по городу летом – это самое широко распространенное удовольствие по вечерам.
2. Он сидел и смотрел на нескончаемый поток людей за окном.
3. Утром меня будит шум уличного движения.

¹¹ См.: Британия. С. 77.

Video 2

“Stephen Fry’s Key to the City”

I. *Read the biographical information about Stephen Fry. Have you seen any of the TV series or films that he has been in? What did you think of them?*

Stephen Fry

Stephen Fry is an English comedian, writer, actor, humorist, novelist, poet, columnist, filmmaker, television personality and technophile. As one half of the Fry and Laurie double act with his comedy partner, Hugh Laurie, he has appeared in “A Bit of Fry and Laurie” and “Jeeves and Wooster”. He is also famous for his roles in Blackadder and Wilde, and as the host of the BBC television quiz show QI. In addition to writing for stage, screen, television and radio he has contributed columns and articles for numerous newspapers and magazines, and has also written four successful novels and a series of memoirs. Stephen Fry is also known for his voice-overs, reading all seven of the Harry Potter novels for the UK audiobook recordings.

(From *Creakle Library*¹²)

II. *Before you watch the film, check that you understand the following words and expressions.*

Useful vocabulary

- droolworthy quantities of cash
- bewildering ceremonies
- to delve into sth.
- to be filled with
- to penetrate
- distinguished
- swipe card
- borough

¹² Stephen Fry // Creakle Library: Creakle Community – reading, communicationg and sharing : [site]. URL: <https://www.creaklelibrary.com/index.php> (date of access: 18.07.2019).

- bascule chamber
- to be operated by complicated mechanics
- livery companies
- Freedom of the City
- The Lord Mayor of London
- chief cashier
- inauguration
- solicitor
- dignity
- the belle of the ball

III. *Watch the film “Stephen Fry’s Key to the City”¹³ and get ready to speak on the following topics.*

1. Freedom of the City of London ceremony.
 2. Tower Bridge lift.
 3. The London Metal Exchange.
 4. The Bank of England.
 5. The Ward Beadles of the City of London and the Silent Ceremony.
- The Lord Mayor of London.
6. The Old Bailey.
 7. Lloyd’s of London.
 8. Beehives on the roof of Mansion House.
 9. Dinner with the Society of Apothecaries.

IV. *Answer the questions.*

1. Which information in the film surprised you?
2. Which information did you think was interesting?

V. *Use the Internet to find more information about:*

1. 30 St Mary Axe (The Gherkin).
2. 20 Fenchurch Street (The “Walkie Talkie” Building).
3. Tower 42 (The National Westminster Tower, the NatWest Tower).
4. The Barbican Centre.

¹³ Stephen Fry’s Key to the City (48 mins, 2013) // IMDb (Internet Movie Database) : TV movie, 6 August 2013 : [site]. URL: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt3188960/> (date of access: 18.07.2019).

Unit 6

GETTING AROUND IN GREAT BRITAIN

Read and understand the following texts and dialogues and do the exercises that follow them.

ASKING THE WAY

Houses in Britain should have a street number, but in real life many are known only by a name. People of high social position have their country houses with names that makes the postman's work more difficult. These may be "The Oaks", "The Poplars", "Hawthorne", etc. and their addresses may be taken from the public library or the police station with the help of the electoral roll (or the computers today). Streets have taken their name from the Roman "Via Strata". (Saxons translated this as "street" meaning "a paved way". "Road" is a Saxon word that means "a journey on horseback").

– Excuse me, can you tell me where South Street is, please?
(Or "Could you tell me the way to South Street, please?")

– Yes, sir / madam / miss. It's only about 5 minutes' walk from where you are.

– Do I go to the right?

– Oh, no. Go straight ahead and then turn left.

– Many thanks.

– Not at all. (It's a pleasure. That's quite all right).

(From *Conversational Situations* by E. Filatov¹⁴)

Use the following words and expressions in situations of your own.

Could you tell me, can you show me, how do I get to..., about 10 minutes' walk from..., go to the right / left, turn right / left, go straight ahead, not at all.

¹⁴ Filatov E. *Conversational Situations*. P. 16.

ON A BUS

In the UK, people use the term coach when they mean intercity buses, longer distance tour buses, and special express excursion buses – from town centers to distant airports, for example. Buses, on the other hand, are always local. In addition to London’s familiar, red, double-decker buses, all UK cities have some kind of local bus service – many with double-decker buses as well. There are also dozens of country bus services. Bus numbers such as 15 or 72 are pronounced as “fifteen” and “seventy-two”. And such as “123” are said “one-two-three”.

Taking an ordinary public bus is a very cheap way for a visitor to have a good look around. And thanks to the Internet, figuring out bus schedules and finding bus routes and fare prices is much easier for visitors nowadays.

– Does this bus go to Trafalgar Square? (you get on a bus and get off a bus)

– Yes, the 292 goes to Trafalgar Square.

– Excuse me, please. Then I’m OK for Bedford Street, am I not? (aren’t I)

– Yes, this is the right bus for Bedford Street.

– Can you tell me where to get off?

– Oh, yes. I’ll put you off at the right stop.

– How much further is it?

– It’s quite a way yet, but I’ll tell you in good time.

– Thanks a lot.

– Not at all.

(From *TripSavvy*¹⁵)

Use the following words and expressions in situations of your own.

Bus, coach, train, double-decker, bus fare, to get on, to get off, to take a bus, the right stop, two stops away, to put smb. on the right bus, to have a good look around, to figure out bus schedules, bus route.

¹⁵ *Arfin F.* How to Plan a Trip by Bus or Coach in the UK // *TripSavvy* : UK Bus and Coach Travel : [site]. 06/10/19. URL: <https://www.tripsavvy.com/uk-bus-and-coach-travel-1661863> (date of access: 22.07.2019).

TAKING A TAXI IN LONDON

Some 6,000 taxis that may be hired in the streets are privately owned by companies or owner-drivers and are licensed annually by the metropolitan police. London taxicabs carry meters indicating the fare to be paid. Drivers must charge the meter fare for all the journeys within the London police districts, regardless of duration and distance. All the taxicab drivers expect to be tipped.

- West London Air terminal, please.
- Hop in, miss. Won't be long.
- I have to be there at 10.30.
- I think we can make it, if we get a move on. Don't worry. If the lights are green, we'll be there in no time. (In a jiffy).
- Unless the lights are against us, we'll make it.
- I don't think there will be a hold-up this time of the day.
- Oh, here we are. Thanks a lot. Here's 20 pounds. You can keep the change.
- Thanks. Here's your heavy luggage.
- Oh, I need a trolley.
- There they are. Just take one.

(From *Conversational Situations* by E. Filatov¹⁶)

Use the following words and expressions in situations of your own.

To hire a taxi (cab), privately owned, to be licensed, the police, to carry a meter, to indicate the fare to be paid, to charge smb. for smth., regardless of, to tip, to hop in, to make it (to get somewhere in time), to get a move on, traffic jam, heavy traffic, a hold-up, to keep the change, luggage/baggage, trolley.

THE LONDON UNDERGROUND (THE TUBE)

The underground railway in London extends to more than 25 miles. The first underground steam railway, the Metropolitan, was built in London in 1863 by digging a great trench for the line and roofing it over. The first

¹⁶ Filatov E. *Conversational Situations*. P. 18.

electric tube railway in the world was opened in 1890. Fares on the Tube are not fixed, but are proportional to the distance travelled. There are 11 lines in the system.

(From *Conversational Situations* by E. Filatov¹⁷)

THE LONDON TUBE MAP

By the 1960s, the London Underground had become very large. This made it difficult to show the new lines and the new stations on a traditional kind of map, and passengers complained that the existing map was confusing. In 1931, a designer, called Harry Beck, was asked to design a map, which was easier to read. His map, which was based on an electrical circuit, represented each line in a different colour. This map, which is still used today by thousands of people, both Londoners and tourists, is perhaps one of the most practical icons ever.

However the London Tube map doesn't represent distances correctly. People sometimes think if a place is one stop away, then it must be very near, but in fact there's a big difference in distance between different stations. So for example, Covent Garden station is only 260 metres from Leicester Square, whereas the distance between Marble Arch and Bond Street (which looks the same distance on the map) is over a kilometre.

(From *English File*¹⁸)

1. *Use the Internet to find the correct way of pronouncing the following Tube station names. Find them on the Tube map (Picture 2).*

1. North Greenwich
2. Southwark
3. Clapham South
4. Piccadilly Circus
5. Leicester Square

¹⁷ Filatov E. *Conversational Situations*. P. 21.

¹⁸ Great British Design Icons: The London Tube Map // Latham-Koenig Ch., Oxenden C. *English File* third edition: Intermediate Teacher's Book. Oxford, 2013. P. 132.

6. Canary Wharf
7. Gloucester Road
8. Vauxhall
9. Warwick Avenue
10. Marylebone
11. Edgware Road
12. Holborn
13. Ladbroke Grove
14. Loughton
15. Ruislip

II. *Find more information about:*

1. The phrase “Mind the gap”
2. Oyster cards
3. Busking on the London Underground

OTHER WAYS OF GETTING AROUND LONDON

Use the Internet to find additional information about:

1. DLR (Docklands Light Railway)
2. Rail services
3. London trams
4. River boats
5. Emirates Air Line
6. Bicycles

AIR TRAVEL

Announcement at the airport:

– Attention, please! All the passengers going by Flight Number 987 may please proceed to Gate 3 to board the plane. Or: Flight 987. Direct service to London, leaving through Gate 3. All passengers for Flight 987 to Gate 3, please.

– On board the plane. A cabin attendant counted the passengers. Two short. The flight is delayed a bit. Then she announces: Fasten your seat belts, please. We are ready for the take-off. The landing is expected in 3 hours’ time.

Being met at the airport

- Good morning. You are Miss Ivanova, aren't you?
- That's right, I am.
- How do you do? I'm Iris Brown from the British Council.
- How do you do? I'm happy to meet you.
- Have you filled in the Customs Declaration slip? If you have we'll be through the Customs without a delay.
- And where is the Passport Control?
- It's over there. We are just going to it. Here we are.
- May I see your passport, please?
- Yes, here you are.
- Have you been here before?
- No, sir / madam / miss. This my first visit.
- I hope you'll enjoy yourself.
- Thank you.
- It's the rush hour. We'd better take a taxi or we may go by train.
- Oh, look! There's a queue for taxis (cabs). Let's go by train.
- I think we'd better. It'll take us right to Charing Cross Railway Station. The hotel where you are staying is not too far away.
- What hotel is it?
- It's the Strand Palace Hotel right on the Strand. About 10 minutes' walk to Trafalgar Square and 20 minutes to the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey.
- Oh, that's nice. I never thought I would be as lucky as that – to be staying so near to all the famous sights of London.

(From *Conversational Situations* by E. Filatov²⁰)

Use the following words and expressions in situations of your own.

Flight number 254, to proceed to Gate No. 3, to board a plane, cabin attendant / hostess / stewardess, to delay a flight, to announce, take-off, landing, to fill in a form / slip, to go through the Customs, without a delay, rush hour, queue, about 15 minutes' walk to..., to see the sights.

²⁰ Filatov E. *Conversational Situations*. P. 22–23.

I. Read the following text, write out the new words and memorize them.

KERB APPEAL

No London street scene is complete without a black cab and a red bus. Fifty years after the last Routemaster was made, Florence Sheward pays tribute to the capital's two best-loved vehicles.

While you can often identify a photo of a London street via one of its many iconic buildings or landmarks, by far the easiest way to tell if you are in the British capital is through the appearance of two things: a black taxi cab and a red double-decker bus. Over the last century these two vehicles have become both internationally renowned symbols of the city and also staples of daily life – more than 2.24 billion passenger journeys were made on London buses in the last year alone.

The history of both vehicles has a long tailback. Black cabs are often referred to as Hackney carriages, a name which points to the origins of the service. In the early 17th century, Hackney was not the hip corner of East London it is today, but a rural enclave dotted with Tudor mansions to which the capital's wealthy sorts would escape via horse-drawn coach – the forerunner of the black taxi. Even Samuel Pepys wrote in his famous diaries of escaping “up and away into the fields” to breathe in the fresh Hackney air.

Most agree, however, that the name of both the area and the carriages actually derives from the French word *haquenée* – a small, easy-to-ride horse. In the 12th century, Hackney was mostly marshland where these horses were left to graze. Thanks to their ease of use, such horses would be hired out and carriages were later added.

The first attempt to formalise the service came in 1662 with coachmen required to apply for a J5 a year licence. By the Victorian era, the hansom cab had become the popular “black cab” of choice in the capital – a speedier carriage with a low centre of gravity that was patented in 1834 by York architect John Hansom. It was only once licences were first granted to petrol-driven cabs for the first time in 1903 that these hansom cabs were slowly phased out.

Buses were a much later addition to London's streets. George Shillibeer is credited with starting the first public omnibus service on

4 July 1829, as he ferried passengers between Paddington and Bank in a yellow-and-green carriage drawn by three horses. A heyday of horse-drawn buses ensued.

The first red buses belonged to the London General Omnibus Company (LGOC). Formed in 1855, the company took the decision to paint its entire fleet red in 1907 in order to stand out from the increasing competition. The same decade saw the first motorised buses take to the streets, before the last horse-drawn service took place on 25 October 1911.

The typical red bus design really began with the AEC Regent III RT1 – the London Bus Museum at Cobham claim the “RT1 is to London bus enthusiasts what Flying Scotsman is to the world of steam locomotives”. The newly-formed London Transport ordered 338 RT1s from Associated Equipment Company (AEC) in 1939 just as the Second World War broke out. Within 15 years there were around 4,600 serving the public.

The now-classic Routemaster made its first appearance at Earls Court’s Commercial Motor Show on 24 September 1954, before entering full service two years later on route 2, which ran between Golders Green and Crystal Palace.

Though again built by the AEC, credit for the distinctive look goes to the industrial designer Douglas Scott, who had made his name with the equally-iconic AGA cooker in the late 1930s. “I have always designed for the market,” said Scott of his philosophy. “Private and personal aesthetics are out of place in industrial design.”

More than just an iconic silhouette, the revolutionary design combined elegance with functionality. Improved suspension and hydraulic breaks made for a more comfortable ride, while the chassis was comprised of lightweight, interchangeable aluminium parts – an idea borrowed from aircraft manufacture that increased fuel efficiency and allowed easier repairs.

The open rear platform allowed passengers to alight between stops, meaning that carefree teenagers hopping on and off a Routemaster became an iconic image of swinging 1960s London.

In the years since, these two forms of transport have become international icons of London, every bit as recognisable to tourists as The Queen or Big Ben. Even with the onset of private hire firms and Uber

taxi app, black cabs are still a regular fixture of central London streets with more than 20,000 in circulation. They have become desirable cars in their own right, too. The BBC TV series *Stephen Fry in America* saw the well-spoken British presenter travel across all 50 US states in a black cab, while no less than the Queen's husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, had his own chauffeur-driven Hackney carriage that has been converted to run on liquid petroleum gas.

One of the beauties of hailing a black cab in London today is the guarantee that you are being picked up by one of the most comprehensive tour guides in the capital – a living, breathing GPS. All licensed London taxi drivers are required to take a test called the Knowledge, which involves learning 320 routes, 25,000 streets and 20,000 points of interest within a six-mile radius of Charing Cross. Transport for London (TfL) estimates that it will take an average driver between two and four years to pass the test.

The traditional red double-decker bus is a far rarer sight. Around 1,200 of the 2,876 original Routemasters are in operation today, though only 10 of those vehicles serve the one surviving “heritage” route – the number 15, which calls at Trafalgar Square, St. Paul's Cathedral and the Tower of London. Most others are in private hands, hired out for weddings or offering novelty guides such as the B Bakery's Afternoon Tea Bus Tour, which lays on high tea as you take a leisurely ride past many London landmarks. Red double deckers operate along the majority of the 700 or so routes that criss-cross the capital, though these are largely newer models, including a modernized New Routemaster, known by some as the “Boris Bus” as they were first introduced under London's former mayor, Boris Johnson.

If you prefer to avoid the traffic, the London Transport Museum in Covent Garden houses a fantastic collection of lovingly maintained vehicles too. There's a 1963 Routemaster that served routes in east London for more than 20 years before being restored into a show bus.

Further afield, the London Transport Museum Depot at Acton houses 320,000 items from the collection, including many vehicles, and can be visited via open weekends and guided tours (head online at www.ltmuseum.co.uk for details), while the London Bus Museum in

Weybridge, Surrey, has up to 30 vintage buses on display at one time. So whether you want to admire a classic vehicle or hail a ride across the city, you will never be far from your nearest black cab or red bus in central London.

Did you know?

- London black cabs have a turning circle of just eight metres. This was made a legal requirement so that they could navigate the tight roundabout at the main entrance of the Savoy Hotel.
- Transport for London's "Colour standard" guide specifies all red buses use the colour Pantone 485 C. This is the exact same hue used on the London Underground and McDonald's restaurants.
- The Knowledge is proven to make your brain grow. Researchers from the Wellcome Department of Imaging Neuroscience scanned the heads of 16 cab drivers taking the test and found they had a larger hippocampus as a result.

(From *Discover Britain*²¹)

II. Speak on the given topics.

1. Black taxi cabs and red double-decker buses as internationally renowned symbols of London.
2. The history of Hackney carriages.
3. The history of buses in London.
4. The Knowledge taxi test.
5. The "Boris Bus".
6. The London Transport Museum.

III. Find Russian equivalents to the following words and phrases.

Iconic buildings or landmarks, staples of daily life, journey, vehicle, to have a long tailback, rural enclave, to be dotted with, marshland, to graze, to formalize the service, hansom cabs, heyday, to combine elegance with functionality, chassis, rear platform, to alight between stops, recognisable, to hail a black cab, to criss-cross the capital, on display, hue.

²¹ *Sheward F. Kerb Appeal // Discover Britain. December/January, 2018/2019. P. 59–63.*

I. Read the text about a black-cab driver Paul Kirby and translate it.

AN INSIDER'S TOUR FROM A BLACK-CAB DRIVER

In a new series exploring the lives of iconic Londoners, Marianka Swain gets an insider's tour from a black-cab driver.

Paul Kirby's most unusual passenger? A four-legged one. "A gentleman asked if I take dogs. When I said yes, he put his Labrador in the taxi on its own! Turns out he was divorced and shared custody with his ex. The whole way, I wondered if I'd end up at Battersea Dogs Home or telling my wife we've got a new addition to the family. But it was fine in the end – and the dog was one of my better-behaved passengers..."

It's all part of the job for Paul, who's spent 25 years driving one of London's iconic black cabs. "I'm a Londoner born and bred, and I liked the idea of being my own boss, plus the honour of joining the best taxi service in the world." It took him two years to master the Knowledge, learning about 25,000 streets and 20,000 landmarks. "They're always changing: new landmarks, new names for hotels, theatres, restaurants, clubs. London never stops." One upcoming change is the new Crossrail service, which Paul hopes will "spread the work out".

Technology hasn't affected him, as he prefers local knowledge to satnav, though a black-cab app flags up jobs if needed. Otherwise the network of some 25,000 drivers is his most valuable resource. "We compare notes: that street's shut off, that hotel's changed its name again. If a passenger asks for somewhere you've never heard of, you call round – someone always knows. And there's mutual respect. We'll always let another taxi out of a junction, as we know what they've gone through to be able to drive a black cab."

Passengers vary "from locals to tourists, young, old, businessmen, shoppers... I drive kids on their own too – parents know they can trust us." One of Paul's longest journeys was all the way to Oxfordshire, when an enterprising passenger gathered a group of strangers following a train crash near Paddington.

“Another bloke was so stressed out from work we got all the way home, and then he remembered he had moved two days ago. Lots of people tell me their problems. A shrink explained it is because there’s not much eye contact, so even Londoners are comfortable opening up.” Celebrity passengers include Kate Moss, Hugh Grant, Jude Law, boxer Barry McGuigan and the late Terry Wogan.

Paul, who mixes up his hours, has become adept at finding late-night cafes. “London really is a 24-hour city if you know where to go. And I always meet up with friends at the Sea Shell of Lisson Grove – brilliant fish and chips. The takeaway side is half the price of the restaurant, and they offer a discount for taxi drivers.” Getting caught short is tricky, with so few public toilets, “but the hotels usually let us in”.

One of his favourite areas is the Southwark stretch of the Thames. “There’s the replica of Francis Drake’s *Golden Hind*, the Clink Prison – the oldest in England – Shakespeare’s Globe, the old bear-baiting pits, and the Anchor Bankside pub where Samuel Pepys wrote his diary entry about the Great Fire of London, which he could see across the river.

“It’s proper history. I love walking round, imagining it all. The Monument to the Great Fire is well worth a look, and has fantastic views from the top.”

There are hidden gems everywhere, notes Paul – sometimes tiny ones. London’s smallest statue, in Eastcheap, is a 19th-century rendering of two mice fighting over a piece of cheese. “It’s from when they were working on the Monument, and one worker accused another of eating his lunchtime cheese sandwich. They got in a fight and fell to their deaths. Turns out, it was a mouse all along.”

He also loves the flower-filled boats of Little Venice in west London, “which feels like another world, even though you’re a mile from Oxford Street”, and the disused tube tunnels and stations, “a part of London no one sees, like stepping back in time. It’s a privilege to drive in this amazing city – so full of history, and also growing every day.”

(From *Discover Britain*²²)

²² *Swain M.* Maybe It’s Because I’m a Londoner // *Discover Britain*. June/July, 2016. P. 75–77.

II. *Answer the following questions.*

1. Which information in the text surprised you?
2. What are the pros and cons of being a cab driver in London?

What does Paul like about his job?

3. If you could talk to any iconic Londoner, who would you choose? Why?

III. *Comment on the following statements from the text.*

1. "London never stops."
2. "...we know what they've gone through to be able to drive a black cab."
3. "Lots of people tell me their problems."
4. "There are hidden gems everywhere."

IV. *Find Russian equivalents to the following words and phrases.*

To share custody, to be your own boss, satnav, to be shut off, junction, bloke, to open up, to offer a discount, to be caught short, tricky, to be well worth a look, to render, to step back in time.

Unit 7

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

I. Read the following text, write out the new words and memorize them.

Buckingham Palace is the official London residence of Her Majesty the Queen and as such is one of the best known and most potent symbols of the British monarchy. Yet it has been a royal residence for only just over two hundred and fifty years and a palace for much less; and its name, known the world over, is owed not to a monarch but to an English Duke.

Buckingham House – the building now completely enveloped by Buckingham Palace – was built for John, first Duke of Buckingham, between 1702 and 1705. It was sold to the Crown in 1762 by his illegitimate son, Sir Charles Sheffield, for the sum of 28,000 pounds and just a year later King George III and Queen Charlotte took up residence. Surprisingly, since it was a large house in a commanding position, it was never intended to be the principal residence of the monarch: the King bought it for his nineteen-year-old wife as a place to bring up their family in a degree of privacy away from St. James', and as a dower house for her should the need arise.

Although King George III modernized and enlarged the house considerably in the 1760s and 1770s, the transformations that give the building its present palatial character were carried out for King George IV by John Nash in the 1820s, by Edward Blore for King William IV and Queen Victoria in the 1830s and 40s, and by James Pennethorne in the 1850s.

In the reign of King Edward VII, much of the present white and gold decoration was substituted for the richly coloured 19th-century schemes of Nash and Blore; and in the 1920s, Queen Mary used the firm of White Allom to redecorate a number of rooms.

The rooms open to visitors – in effect the State Apartments – are used principally for official entertainments. These include Receptions and State Banquets, and it is on such occasions, when the rooms are filled with flowers and thronged with formally dressed guests and liveried servants, that the Palace is seen at its most splendid and imposing. But of course

the Palace is also far more than just the London home of the Royal Family and a place of lavish entertainment. It has become the administrative centre of the monarchy where, among a multitude of engagements, Her Majesty receives foreign Heads of State, Commonwealth leaders and representatives of the Diplomatic Corps and conducts Investitures, and where the majority of the Royal Household, consisting of six main Departments and a staff of about three hundred people, have their offices.

The Royal Coat of Arms of the United Kingdom

The shield is charged with the ‘leopards’ of England, the lion of Scotland and the harp of Ireland (Picture 3). These are the arms used by Queen Victoria and all subsequent Sovereigns. The Royal supporters are the Lion of England and the Scottish Unicorn. The shield is encircled by a blue Garter, ornamented with gold and inscribed “Honi soit qui mal y pense” (“Shame on him who thinks evil of it”), “The Royal motto Dieu et mon droit” (“God and my right”) is well known.

(From *Buckingham Palace*²³)



Picture 3. Royal Coat of Arms²⁴

²³ Hoey B. *Buckingham Palace*. Ditching, Sussex, 1998. P. 2–7.

²⁴ Royal Coat of Arms of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland // Wikipedia : [site]. URL:https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_coat_of_arms_of_the_United_Kingdom#/media/File:Royal_Coat_of_Arms_of_the_United_Kingdom.svg (date of access: 18.07.2019).

II. *Answer the following questions to the text.*

1. Why is Buckingham Palace so well known the world over?
2. How long has it been a Royal residence?
3. Do you know any other monarchies in Europe?
4. For what purpose did King George III buy the building?
5. What are the State Apartments used for principally?
6. How do the guests to Buckingham Palace always dress?
7. What other usages does Buckingham Palace have besides being the place for official entertainments?

III. *Write the transcription of the following words.*

Enveloped, palatial, substituted, liveried.

IV. *Try to find some other coat of arms and give its description.*

Video 3

“The Queen’s Palaces: Buckingham Palace”

I. *Before you watch the film, check that you understand the following words and expressions.*

Useful vocabulary

- open countryside
- newcomer
- to be filled with objects
- clue
- to make a statement
- consort
- proclamation of royal authority
- to pick
- to encapsulate
- to be purely symbolic
- canopy
- ornate arch
- swags and medallions
- to be channeled through a sewer

- to glimpse into the past
- swampy
- grossly fat
- to drain the land
- to court
- homespun silk industry
- mulberry
- silkworms
- to harvest the silkworms' thread
- to be nicknamed "Lord Allpride"
- to be blessed with
- lavish mansion
- intrepid seafarer
- bordered on the obsessional
- to settle debts
- to lease the land from the crown
- exquisite
- sumptuous
- showy and flamboyant
- conscientious
- priggish
- away from the hurly-burly of court life
- mutton
- elegant vicarage
- dull, dowdy
- landscape
- to broaden smb.'s horizons
- to be in the doldrums
- royal offspring
- to instil great discipline in smb.
- frugal
- opulent
- dingy
- endless alterations
- structurally unsound

- to pull out
- to stink
- rank
- the Sepulchre
- to use the facilities
- hotchpotch
- to pay up

II. *Watch the film “The Queen’s Palaces: Buckingham Palace”²⁵ and get ready to speak on the following topics.*

1. The Throne Room.
2. The Tyburn River.
3. Henry VIII, his private royal hunting ground and deer park.
4. James I, his plantation of mulberries and menagerie.
5. The Duke of Buckingham and the new ‘Buckingham House’.
6. Buckingham House as a private family residence of George III and Queen Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz (science, art, the Royal Academy, Anthony Van Dyck, Canaletto, Venice and the Grand Tour, Joseph Smith).
7. George IV and Buckingham Palace (Carlton House, John Nash, the Centre Room, the Royal Pavilion in Brighton, the cabinet, Antonio Canova, the chandeliers).
8. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Marble Arch.
9. The Queen Victoria Memorial.

²⁵ The Queen’s Palaces: Buckingham Palace (59 mins, 2011) // BBC One : [site].
URL: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b014s302> (date of access: 19.07.2019).

Unit 8

THE TOWER OF LONDON

I. *Read and understand the following text.*

– Now here's the Tower.

– Is it very old?

– Well, the original Tower was put up by William the Conqueror. That makes it the 11th century. It has a very gory history. Henry VIII sent two of his wives here – Anne Boleyn, Elizabeth the First's mother, and Catherine Howard. Both had their heads cut off.

– Yes, I remember. Mary Tudor, his daughter, also sent a lot of people here and all of them lost their heads here too on the Tower Green. Mary wanted to make the country Catholic again, because her mother, Henry VIII's first wife, Catherine of Aragon, was Catholic. She was a Spanish princess.

– Now they keep the Crown Jewels here, guarded by the Beefeaters.

– And who are Beefeaters? Do they eat only beef?

– Of course not. They are Yeomen Warders and custodians of the Tower.

– What are the two letters "ER" on their tunics?

– They stand for the Queen's name, Elizabeth Regina. Their uniform is as it used to be in Tudor times and they possess the rank of Sergeant Major.

– Does the Tower of London come under the umbrella of the East End authorities?

– Oh, no. The Tower of London belongs to the City of London. However, it is much more in keeping with the Westminster part of London. The City stands for gold, the Tower for power – the power of the Sword.

– It's a great fortress. It has been almost everything – a fortress, a castle, a palace, a prison, a safe for the Crown Jewels and has now been converted into a museum.

– Sometimes it produces a terrible impression. Its inner courtyards are inhabited by ravens – birds, which, as is known, eat human flesh and with their cawing forecast disaster, war and death.

– You are right. Ugly feeling goes down my spine when I think of all those who lost their heads on Tower Green.

– Right! The greatest political figures of the country including monarchs have lain inside the walls of the Tower, died of hunger and thirst, noose or axe.

– The names of those in whose honour the Abbey bells were rung and whose names were inscribed on the record of the prisoners of the Tower sometimes coincided.

– And in the White Tower they will show you the staircase under which the skeletons of two children were found – the young Edward the Fifth and his brother, the Duke of York, also known as the two princes who were smothered here.

– Charles the First Stuart spent the last few days of his life in the Tower before he was beheaded by the order of Oliver Cromwell in 1649.

– The remains of Cromwell are buried in the Tower Chapel Royal along with those of Thomas More, two of Henry VIII's wives and Lady Jane Grey.

– And now I recall the fact that Elizabeth I, when a princess, was a prisoner in the Tower. Later she became queen and the bells of the Abbey proclaimed her triumph.

– I hope you will enjoy my story about the ceremony of the keys that dates back about 700 years and has taken place every night since then. Only a limited number of visitors are admitted every night. Every night at 9.53 the Chief Warder of the Beefeaters lights a candle lantern and then makes his way towards the Bloody Tower. After that he, carrying the keys, and his Escort move to the West Gate, which he locks, then he locks the Middle and the Byward Towers.

– And that is called the Ceremony of the Keys?

– No. This is only the beginning. The party then returns to the Bloody Tower Archway and there they are halted by the challenge of the sentry. "Halt!" he commands. "Who goes there?" The Chief Warder answers: "The keys". The sentry demands: "Whose keys?" "Queen Elizabeth's

keys” replies the Chief Warder. “Advance, Queen Elizabeth’s keys, all’s well” commands the sentry. Then the party forms up facing the main part of the Tower. The Officer-in-Charge orders to “Present Arms!” The Chief Warder doffs his Tudor-style bonnet and cries “God preserve Queen Elizabeth!” “Amen” answers the Guard and the Escort. At 10 pm the bugler sounds the “Last Post” and the Chief Warder proceeds to the Queen’s House, where the keys are given into custody.

– How interesting and the tradition is so old!

(From *Situational Conversations*²⁶)

II. *Answer the following questions to the text.*

1. How old is the Tower?
2. What additional information can you give about William the Conqueror? Is he important for the history of England?
3. What do you know about Henry VIII? (Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn, Lady Jane Seymour, Anne of Cleves, Catherine Howard, Catherine Parr) – who are all these ladies and what was their fate?
4. How and why was the state religion of Great Britain changed?
5. What are the Crown Jewels and who owns them?
6. Why do you think the Yeomen Warders still wear the uniform of the Tudor times?
7. What is the West End and what is the East End of London historically?
8. What is the name Westminster associated with?
9. Why was the Tower originally built as a fortress?
10. Do you think it’s a good thing keeping ravens in the Tower? What is done so that they wouldn’t fly away?
11. What additional information can you give about Charles I and Oliver Cromwell?
12. Do you know what happened after Oliver Cromwell’s death?
13. Why was Lady Jane Grey, a very young girl, beheaded in the Tower?
14. What is the reign of Elizabeth I noted for?
15. Why do you think the Ceremony of the Keys is kept going?

²⁶ Филиатов Е. М. (Разговор на любую тему) = *Situational Conversations* : сб. диалогов : в 2 ч. на англ. и рус. яз. Екатеринбург, 1998. С. 12.

III. *Find English equivalents in the text to the following words and phrases.*

Первоначальный, кровавый, хранить, хранитель, охранять, форма (которую носят), владеть, под эгидой, власть, в соответствии с, превратить что-то во что-то другое, впечатление, внутренний двор, населять, ворон, производить впечатление, предсказывать беду, топор, виселица, в честь кого-либо, совпадать, лестница, хоронить, провозгласить, допускать, вызов, стоять лицом к, фонарь.

I. *Read the text about a Beefeater Jim Duncan, write out the new words and memorize them.*

AN INSIDER'S TOUR FROM A BEEFEATER

Continuing our series exploring the lives of iconic Londoners, Marianka Swain gets an insider's tour from a Beefeater.

"The Tower of London is a living, working royal palace, so we're part of living history," explains Yeoman Sergeant Jim Duncan, one of 37 current Yeoman Warders, also known as Beefeaters. "We're so aware of everyone who came before us. The Tower has always been here – it's the city's protector."

In the 15th century, King Henry VII gathered a group of soldiers to become his personal bodyguard, and in 1509 Henry VIII chose 12 of them to protect the Tower. The "Beefeater" designation most likely refers to the guards receiving a larger food ration than other royal servants.

Today, Beefeaters must have at least 22 years' military service, the rank of Warrant Officer, and the Long Service and Good Conduct medal. Jim served in the Queen's Regiment, everywhere from Northern Ireland to the Falklands, before returning to his home town of London. "I was at the Tower quite a bit when I was with the Horseguards, and I always hoped to join the Warders one day."

Applicants have to give a presentation on a historic subject, and Jim did "a quick history of 1,000 years of the Tower of London in 20 minutes! It's fascinating, as each tower has its own name and purpose."

There's a historic hierarchy, from the Chief Yeoman Warder to four Yeoman Sergeants and then the other Beefeaters, including the Raven Master, "responsible for upkeep of the ravens – legend has it that if they

ever leave the Tower, the monarchy will fall. We don't want to risk that, so we clip their wings."

The first task as a Beefeater is "learning your Tower 'story', so you can give guided tours to the public." As Yeoman Sergeant, Jim also supervises the team and the daily ceremonies. These include the Opening Ceremony, the Ceremony of the Word, where the guard forms to collect the day's password, and locking the two sets of gates during the Ceremony of the Keys.

Security is vital: after all, the Tower of London holds the Crown Jewels.

One of Jim's favourite aspects is answering visitor questions, whether historic or "wanting to know if something they saw in a film is really true. You show them sites of famous executions and tell the story of each one – like with Walter Raleigh, I'll talk about why he was in the Bloody Tower, plus his life and adventures. It's fantastic when youngsters come in with the Learning and Engagement programme. And people always enjoy the Past Pleasures reenactments – it's amazing seeing the trial of Anne Boleyn right in front of you, or two knights fighting. History coming to life."

Other special events include the Ceremony of the Lilies and Roses, on the anniversary of Henry VI's death, and the Constable's Dues. "Back in the day, ships had to pay tax with part of their cargo. Now, when a warship comes in, the company parades and they bring a barrel of rum."

Most important is the Warders' swearing-in ceremony on Tower Green, involving an oath to HM the Queen. "There's also a toast: 'May you never die a Yeoman.' Historically, you bought the position and sold it on when you retired – if you died first, the Constable of the Tower would sell it and keep the money instead!"

Yeoman Warders wear their red and gold Tudor uniform, with gold braid, on state occasions, consisting of a tunic, breeches, stockings and bonnet – "it's very expensive and heavy". The daily uniform is a lighter Victorian design in royal blue with red trimming, plus seasonal extras such as a cape in winter. Both feature the initials "ER" for "Elizabeth Regina".

Jim loves living in the Tower itself, "in buildings that have been inhabited by royalty. I'm in the Casemates near the moat, and it's

the most incredible view.” There’s also the honour of showing round visiting dignitaries and, reflecting his key role in the project, Jim presented a wreath to the Queen when she came to see the poppy installation in 2014.

“That was special, because it really emphasised what soldiers go through, and it captured people’s imagination.”

Jim notes most Beefeaters stay on until retirement age. “It’s such a fantastic job, and a great way to serve Queen and country. You get the whole world coming to you, and you see how thrilled they are to be here in London, engaging with this rich history. That’s a pleasure every single day.”

(From *Discover Britain*²⁷)

II. *Retell the text according to the following plan.*

1. Why are they called Beefeaters?
2. Qualifications.
3. Historic hierarchy.
4. Executions.
5. Ceremonies.
6. Famous clothing.
7. An honour.

III. *Find Russian equivalents to the following words and phrases.*

To be aware of, designation, ration, royal servant, Warrant Officer, applicant, upkeep, to give guided tours to the public, to supervise the team, vital, youngsters, tunic, breeches, stockings, bonnet, trimming, moat, poppy, to capture smb.’s imagination, thrilled.

Video 4

“Secrets of the Tower of London”

I. *Before you watch the film, check that you understand the following words and expressions.*

²⁷ Swain M. Maybe It’s Because I’m a Londoner // *Discover Britain*. December/January, 2016/2017. P. 75–77.

Useful vocabulary

- infamous
- notorious
- execution
- archives
- relics
- to unravel secrets
- deserted
- iconic landmarks
- to stand guard
- formidable
- solid walls
- strongroom
- to perform ceremonies
- to awe rebellious Londoners
- to deter foreign invasion
- to make a statement
- marshlands
- to be dwarfed
- reinforcements
- stronghold
- impregnable
- menagerie
- ferocious
- Barbary lions
- heyday
- to brag
- mural
- crucifixion
- pigments
- secretions
- bullion
- fraud, fraudsters
- treason
- damnation

- copper
- macabre
- treachery
- mint
- turmoil
- opulent
- traitor
- swordsman
- trinkets
- etched
- gigantic
- seesaw

II. *Watch the film “Secrets of the Tower of London”²⁸ and get ready to speak on the following topics.*

1. The Tower of London: foundation and history.
2. The Tower of London menagerie.
3. The Byward Tower mural.
4. Henry VIII, Catherine Aragon, Anne Boleyn.
5. The Tower of London in the 19th century.
6. Tower Bridge.
7. The Yeomen Warders.
8. The Crown Jewels.
9. The Tower ravens.
10. The Ceremony of the Keys.

²⁸ Secrets of the Tower of London (54 mins, 2013) // Netflix : [site]. URL: <https://www.netflix.com/ru/title/70296573> (date of access: 18.07.2019).

Unit 9

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL AND WESTMINSTER ABBEY

I. Read the text about the history of St. Paul's Cathedral and translate it, memorize the new words.

THE HISTORY OF ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

For thirteen and a half centuries a cathedral dedicated to the honour of Saint Paul has stood upon the summit of Ludgate Hill. Sir Christopher Wren's great Renaissance church, which rises majestically over the City, is the fifth to bear the name of London's patron saint.

The history of St. Paul's begins with the consecration of Mellitus as bishop of the East Saxons by St. Augustine of Canterbury in A.D. 604. His cathedral, which was probably a wooden structure, was founded by Ethelbert, King of Kent, who endowed it with the Manor of Tillingham in Essex – an estate, which, to this day, is still held by the Dean and Chapter.

The first cathedral was destroyed by fire – a peril which throughout the centuries has beset all five churches. It was rebuilt in stone in 675–685 by the saintly Bishop Erkenwald whose shrine attracted many pilgrims to the cathedral throughout the Middle Ages. This church was destroyed by the Vikings in the 9th century and again rebuilt in 962.

In 1087 the Saxon church was also burned down. Rebuilding, which began almost at once, had the support of William Rufus, son of William the Conqueror, whom he had just succeeded as king. Maurice, a Norman, and some chaplain and chancellor to William the Conqueror, had been appointed Bishop of London the previous year. He seized the opportunity to build a cathedral on a vaster scale than anything previously envisaged in London. This cathedral, familiarly known as 'Old St. Paul's', stood within spacious precincts enclosed by walls. It was built in the Norman style. Work on the choir was delayed by a fire in 1136 and it was not

in use until 1148 when the remains of St. Erkenwald were translated to a new shrine behind the high altar. The cathedral was finally finished and dedicated in 1240.

As services in the cathedral became more elaborate, it was decided to pull down the Norman choir and to replace it with a larger one in a more graceful Gothic style. Work was begun in about 1258 and was completed by 1314. The length of the building grew to 596 feet. Not only was St. Paul's the largest church in England, but it was surpassed in size among European cathedrals only by Seville and Milan.

The spire, 489 feet high and the loftiest that had ever been built, was completed in 1315. It was struck by lightning in 1447 and was not repaired until 1462 when the weathercock upon a ball capable of holding ten bushels of corn was re-erected.

The fourteenth century brought great and splendid changes to the interior of the cathedral. The floors were paved with marble and the relics of St. Erkenwald, which had achieved a reputation for working miracles, were translated to another and more magnificent shrine adorned with gold.

During the early 15th century, St. Paul's was the setting for many trials for heresy and witchcraft. The unhappy souls found guilty passed from its precincts to nearby Smithfield to die by burning at the stake.

The most famous part of the precincts in the Middle Ages was St. Paul's Cross, an open-air pulpit and the scene for many fiery sermons, particularly during the Reformation. To the east lay the Cathedral School which was re-founded in 1512 by Dean Colet. This school – now very well known as St. Paul's School – was transferred to Hammersmith in 1884 and is now in Barnes.

A state occasion of great magnificence at the beginning of the 16th century was the marriage of Arthur, Prince of Wales, to Catherine Aragon, but within six months Catherine was a widow. Seven years later, quietly at Greenwich, she married her brother-in-law, Henry VIII. Henry frequently attended St. Paul's on state occasions.

The reigns of Henry VIII and Edward VI saw great changes in the Church of England; at the onset of the Reformation the churches were despoiled of their wealth and treasures and the services reduced to the utmost simplicity. St. Paul's suffered no less than others in this

respect. Most tombs were hacked to ruins and only that of John of Gaunt by royal command was spared damage.

Although the old ritual and some of the former glory was restored during the five-year reign of Mary I, it was again suppressed on the accession of her half-sister Elizabeth I. The Latin services were discontinued and the images which had been restored by Mary quietly removed at night.

Shortly after Elizabeth I became queen there occurred the first calamity that led to the decay of Old St. Paul's. On the afternoon of 4 June 1561, during a severe thunderstorm, the spire was again struck by lightning. It caught alight and burnt downwards to the square tower. Bishop Grindal restored it partly at his own expense and Elizabeth I came to the great service of thanksgiving for victory over the Spanish Armada. She was carried to the cathedral in a chariot 'like a throne' drawn by four white horses.

After the Reformation, houses and shops were erected right up to the very walls of the cathedral. The long nave, popularly known as 'Paul's Walk', was a renowned place where one could hear all the scandalous news of London. Tradesmen sold their wares there and horses were led through the building. Despite protests this continued even in the new cathedral almost up until the middle of the 18th century.

The ravages of the Civil War completed the deterioration which had commenced with the fire of 1561 and by 1660, when Charles II was restored to the throne, St. Paul's was in the final stages of decay and despoliation – 'a loathsome Golgotha', as one contemporary described it. The cathedral was totally destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666. A complete rebuilding was now obviously essential and Christopher Wren was asked to prepare a design for submission to the king. Thus began the plans for the fifth and present cathedral but seven years were to pass before the first stone was laid. The last stone at the apex of the lantern above the cupola was placed in position by Sir Christopher's son in 1708, forty-two years after the Great Fire of 1666. Wren – the architect and builder – had the supreme satisfaction of seeing his masterpiece completed during his lifetime.

(From *St. Paul's: The Cathedral Guide*²⁹)

²⁹ Atkinson F., Floyd-Ewin Sir D. *St. Paul's: The Cathedral Guide*. London, 1984. P. 26–31.

II. *Answer the following questions to the text.*

1. How long has St. Paul's Cathedral been in existence?
2. Who is London's patron saint?
3. Who was the architect of the cathedral that we can see today?
4. How did the history of St. Paul's begin?
5. How many cathedrals have there been all in all up to this day?
6. What peril had beset all the cathedrals?
7. What is Bishop Erkenwald for the Church of England today?
8. Which cathedrals are bigger: St. Paul's, the one in Milan or the one in Seville? Or the one in the Vatican?
9. What role has lightning played in the perils that have beset the cathedral?
10. How was St. Paul's used during the early part of the 15th century?
11. What happened to the cathedral when the Reformation came along?
12. What happened to the cathedral when Mary I became queen and then Elizabeth I?
13. What led to the decay of Old St. Paul's?
14. What was 'Paul's Walk' used for after the Reformation?
15. What role did the Great Fire of 1666 play in the fate of the cathedral?
16. When was the cathedral finally built?

III. *Write the transcription of the following words.*

Renaissance, consecration, Mellitus, endowed, chaplain, chancellor, precincts, deterioration, despoliation, apex.

IV. *Find English equivalents to the following words and expressions.*

Посвящать, честь, вершина, возрождение, величественно, покровитель, епископ, посвящение, основать, одарить, поместье, усадьба, уничтожить, привлекать, паломник, унаследовать (трон), назначить, использовать случай, масштаб, предусмотреть, ранее, просторный, сделать отсрочку, снести (здание), завершить, изящный, превзойти, молния, отремонтировать, флюгер, чудеса, выложить (мрамором), сжечь на костре, проповедь, великолепие, посещать, царствование, в этом отношении, слава, избежать разрушения,

подавлять, вступление на трон, бедствие, за свой счет, ухудшение (износ), отвратительный, современник, очевидно, удовлетворение, фонарь, шедевр.

V. Make up a plan to the text, one that will reflect all the stages in the stormy existence of St. Paul's Cathedral.

VI. Use the Internet to find more information about the Whispering Gallery, the Stone Gallery and the Golden Gallery.

I. Read the text about the history of Westminster Abbey, write out the new words and memorize them.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Westminster Abbey is one of the most famous religious buildings in the world, and it has served an important role in British political, social and cultural affairs for more than 1,000 years. In spite of its name, the facility is no longer an abbey, and while it still hosts important religious activities, it no longer houses monks or nuns. Westminster Abbey has been the site of royal coronations since 1066, and has been a working facility for religious services since the 10th century.

‘West-Minster’ Versus ‘East-Minster’

Benedictine monks first built a house of worship in or around 960 A.D. on the banks of the River Thames, the river that bisects the city of London, in an area that was then known as Thorny Island.

In 1040, King Edward I, who later became known as St. Edward the Confessor, built his royal palace on a nearby tract of land. A religious monarch, Edward I decided to endow and expand the monastery.

He commissioned the construction of a large, Romanesque-style stone church in honour of St. Peter the Apostle. Twenty-five years later, in December, 1065, the new church was completed, although Edward I was too ill to attend the dedication ceremony and died a few days later.

The new church, St. Peter's Cathedral, became known as the “Westminster” to distinguish it from St. Paul's Cathedral, another notable London church that was called the “East-minster.”

The ‘New’ Westminster Abbey

The original Westminster Abbey survived for nearly two centuries – until the middle of the 1200s, when the monarch of the time, King Henry III, decided to rebuild it in the gothic style popular in that era. Still, pieces of Edward I’s design remain, including the round arches and the supporting columns of the undercroft, or the original monks’ quarters.

With new and notable churches being built across Europe – including Chartres Cathedral in France and, closer to home, Canterbury Cathedral in Kent, England – King Henry III wanted to construct a church fit for the coronation and burial of monarchs.

The “new” cathedral was dedicated on October 13, 1269, and this structure, albeit with some modifications, remains in place today.

Every monarch since William the Conqueror – except for Edward V and Edward VIII, who were never crowned – had a coronation ceremony in Westminster Abbey. In all, 39 monarchs have been crowned in the church.

Royal Interments and Memorials

Under the orders of King Henry III, Edward I’s remains were removed from a tomb in front of the high altar of the old church into a more impressive tomb behind the high altar in the new one.

In the centuries since, multiple royals have been laid to rest nearby, including Henry III, Edward III, Richard II and Henry V. In all, the church has more than 600 wall tablets and monuments, and more than 3,000 people have been buried there.

In addition to royals, Westminster Abbey has a famed Poets’ Corner, which includes burial crypts and memorials for legendary poets, playwrights and writers including Geoffrey Chaucer, Thomas Hardy, Rudyard Kipling, W. H. Auden, Jane Austen, Lewis Carroll, T.S. Eliot, Oscar Wilde, Charles Dickens and the Brontë sisters (Charlotte, Emily and Anne).

Notable additions to the original structure include the “Lady Chapel,” which was built in 1516 and has since been renamed in honour of King Henry VII, who was interred there. Architect Nicholas Harkmoor oversaw the completion of the western towers, which had been unfinished since the 1200s. The towers were dedicated in 1745.

A ‘Royal Peculiar’

Westminster Abbey stopped serving as a monastery in 1559, at roughly the same time it became an Anglican church (part of the Church of England) and formally left the Catholic hierarchy. In 1560, the church was granted “Royal Peculiar” status. This designation essentially means that it belongs to the ruling monarch, and is not governed by any diocese of the Church of England. Since it received the Royal Peculiar designation, Westminster Abbey’s official name has been the Collegiate Church of St. Peter, Westminster.

Westminster Abbey Today

In addition to serving as a site for royal coronations and burials, Westminster Abbey has famously been the location for 17 royal weddings – including the 2011 marriage of Prince William to Catherine Middleton. That ceremony, as with the wedding of William’s parents, Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer in 1981, was watched by millions of people around the world.

Tourists flock to marvel at Westminster Abbey’s gothic design, including its fan-vaulted ceilings and the magnificent pipe organ, installed for the coronation of King George VI in 1937. The organ contains some of the original piping of its predecessor instrument, which was built in 1848.

There is also the Grave to the Unknown Warrior. This tomb contains the body of an unidentified soldier who lost his life in World War I and was laid to rest in 1920. In Britain, the Grave remains a symbol honouring those who have lost their lives fighting for their country.

The last coronation performed at Westminster Abbey was that of Queen Elizabeth II, the present monarch, in 1953. The church is also known as the site of the funeral of Princess Diana in 1997.

Despite its role as tourist attraction and site of important ceremonies, Westminster Abbey is also still a working house of worship. The building hosts regular weekly church services every Sunday, as well as during religious holidays.

(From *History*³⁰)

³⁰ Westminster Abbey // History. A&E Television Networks. July 26, 2017 : [site]. URL: <https://www.history.com/topics/british-history/westminster-abbey> (date of access: 19.07.2019).

II. *Answer the following questions to the text.*

1. When was Westminster Abbey built?
2. How did St. Peter's Cathedral become known as the "West-minster"?
3. What happened to the original Westminster Abbey in the middle of the 1200s?
4. Who was buried in Westminster Abbey? What is Poets' Corner?
5. What is a Royal Peculiar?
6. What is the role of Westminster Abbey today?

III. *Write the transcription of the following words.*

House (v.), monastery, Romanesque, era, albeit, altar, hierarchy.

IV. *Find English equivalents to the following words and expressions.*

Участок земли, отличать от, примечательный, перестроить, многократный, драматург, важные дополнения, был переименован, примерно в то же время, место проведения свадеб, любоваться, сводчатый потолок, предшественник, место проведения важных церемоний.

V. *Find Russian equivalents to the following words and phrases.*

To host important religious activities, a working facility for religious services, to bisect, to house, to commission, undercroft, to inter, to flock, diocese, to serve as a site for royal coronations, a magnificent pipe organ, to install, to host regular church services, during religious holidays.

Video 5

"Secrets of Westminster"

I. *Before you watch the film, check that you understand the following words and expressions.*

Useful vocabulary

- sumptuous
- tomb
- capes
- bling

- to create a cult around smb.
- to perform miracles
- to be smothered in gold
- gable
- patches
- putty
- centerpiece
- compartment
- to house
- to have magical powers
- nationalist
- the Highlands of Scotland
- identity
- thief
- exultation
- to go clean away with it
- to give in
- to bestow
- glorious stage for coronations
- to struggle
- roundel
- infinite
- worldly power
- perils of evil
- lurk
- unnerving images
- carvings
- to look down upon smb.
- revelation
- to play a critical role in sth.
- to underpin
- span arch
- barrels of gunpowder
- tip-off
- to stay away from sth.

- to be determined to do sth.
- inhumane
- vivid
- to be tortured
- to confess smb.'s guilt
- selected for notable achievements
- to be elected
- to delay / veto legislation
- richly decorated interiors
- altar
- canopy
- axis
- pivotal moment
- treason
- trial
- exile
- bare fist fighter

II. Watch the film "*Secrets of Westminster*"³¹ and get ready to speak on the following topics.

1. What is Westminster?
2. Westminster Abbey: King Edward, the Coronation Chair, the Stone of Destiny (= the Stone of Scone), Ian Hamilton, the ancient mosaic, the hidden gallery, the Chapter House.
3. Westminster Hall.
4. Guy Fawkes, the Gunpowder Plot.
5. The Palace of Westminster. The layout of the building (the Central Lobby, the House of Commons, the House of Lords).
6. Why isn't the monarch allowed into the House of Commons?
7. The State Opening of Parliament.
8. Big Ben. Whitechapel Foundry. Elizabeth Tower.
9. Victoria Tower. The Stamp Act. Nancy Astor.
10. Edward Windsor and Wallis Simpson.

³¹ Secrets of Westminster (54 mins, 2014) // Netflix : [site]. URL: <https://www.netflix.com/ru/title/80012520> (date of access: 19.07.2019).

Unit 10

BRITISH CASTLES

I. Read and understand the following text, memorize the new words.

Castles were introduced into Britain by the Normans. Earlier, the Romans and Britons had built camps and fortified places. It is thought that the Normans literally brought castles with them, as at that period they partly consisted of wooden palisades. The main feature was a large mound, surrounded by a ditch, on top of which was built a wooden tower; the entrance was by a ramp or sloping bridge from an enclosure, or 'bailey', surrounded by a palisade and another ditch. These 'motte and bailey' castles were illustrated in the Bayeux Tapestry. One of the first in Britain, built soon after the Battle of Hastings, was probably at Berkhamsted, and hundreds were built as the Norman occupation spread – some of them only for temporary use.

The first stone castles date from about the same time; they were in use in Normandy in the eleventh century and the first few in England included the White Tower of the Tower of London and the Keep of Colchester Castle. As the wooden buildings were open to attack by fire, the use of stone was first for the main tower and the vulnerable entrances and later for the whole building.

Through the centuries the functions of the castle hardly changed – sometimes to protect particular routes at places such as river crossings, usually as a strong point to dominate the area and subdue the local population, often as a place of refuge. In the feudal system, castles showed the balance of power between different barons and between the barons and the king. The lord had to protect himself against possible attack from his followers as well as from external enemies, and comfort was often sacrificed to security.

The simplest structure for the safety of the lord's family was a tower with the entrance at first-floor level. These quarters were only

used in time of siege, more comfortable apartments being built in the courtyard outside for use in quieter times. Later, more ambitious structures were used with strong towers or keeps, strong gatehouses to protect the entrances and curtain walls around the outside. As time went on, more attention was paid to the lord's private apartments, the chapel, garderobes (latrines), fireplaces, kitchens and hall.

The medieval methods of siege mainly consisted of the use of catapults and slings throwing stones, giant bows firing bolts, sapping underneath towers as well, of course, as more frontal attacks. These methods were not adequate against the strong stone keeps, the better curtain wall defenses and the gatehouses strengthened by drawbridge, portcullis, murder holes and arrow slits until the use of firearms made the odds more even.

With the development of commerce arose the need to build town walls as a protection for the merchants, and later castles were used more as residences than as fortifications, although still laid out for defense. After the War of the Roses the residences of the nobility were houses rather than castles; the need for castles and forts shifted to the coasts. Henry VIII built many such defenses round our southern shores in the sixteenth century.

(From *Castles of Britain*³²)

II. *Answer the following questions to the text.*

1. Who introduced castles into Britain and why?
2. What did the first castles look like?
3. What do you know about the Bayeux Tapestry?
4. What role did the Battle of Hastings play in the history of Britain?
5. Why was it necessary to start building stone castles?
6. What was the function of the castle and did it change throughout the centuries?
7. Was it comfortable for the lord to live in the early castles?
8. What was the function of the keep?
9. What was later introduced into the lord's private apartments?
10. How was siege carried out in the medieval times?

³² *Ives St. Castles of Britain*. Huntington, 1973. P. 1.

11. How did the development of commerce influence the construction of walls as protection?

12. Where did the nobility start to reside after the Wars of the Roses?

13. Britain still has a great number of castles. How are they used today?

III. *Write the transcription of the following words.*

Palisades, Bayeux, siege, garderobe, latrine, catapult.

IV. *Find all the words in the text that have to do with the construction of castles and fortifications.*

V. *Explain all the words that have to do with fortifications and castles in English.*

I. *Read the following text and get ready to describe the 10 best castles in Britain.*

10 OF THE BEST CASTLES IN BRITAIN

We round up the best of our nation's powerful fortresses which are a testament to their owners' displays of wealth and power.

Windsor Castle, Windsor

Windsor Castle is the largest occupied castle and oldest official royal residence in the world. Built by William the Conqueror, it's 900 years old and is HM the Queen's home of choice and where she looks likely to spend an increasing amount of time. At just 20 miles outside London, the grounds include several homes, a large church and the royal palace and some of the monarchy's oldest traditions, such as the Knights of the Garter, continue to be marked at Windsor.

Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh

Through sieges, invasions, power struggles, murder and imprisonment, Edinburgh Castle has withstood the test of time, sitting on an ancient volcano above the city. Built in 1130, the castle has been an ancient stronghold, a royal home and army headquarters. Now a World Heritage Site, visitors can see the dungeons used to incarcerate thousands of prisoners over the years and the Scottish Crown Jewels.

Leeds Castle, Kent

Set on two islands on the River Len in the heart of Kent, Leeds Castle is a striking medieval fortress and a former favourite of Henry VIII, who once brought along his entire court while on the way to a tournament in France with Catherine of Aragon in 1520. Today the castle is owned by the Leeds Castle Foundation, who have cared for the property since 1974 when it was gifted to them by the castle's last private owner, Lady Baillie. After acquiring the property in 1926, Lady Baillie soon stamped her mark on the castle, employing some of the best architects and designers of the time, who were responsible for creating much of the exquisite interiors still viewable today.

Alnwick Castle, Northumberland

Nestled in Northumberland, Alnwick Castle is the second largest inhabited castle in the UK. Built 1,000 years ago, it is the seat of the Duke of Northumberland and was originally built to protect England's northern border. Its dramatic setting has attracted tourists and filmmakers alike and the castle was recently used as the setting for Hogwarts School in two of the Harry Potter films.

Cardiff Castle, Cardiff

This stunning castle houses a double dose of history with a medieval castle and a dramatic Victorian Gothic revival mansion. The grand mansion was lavishly remodelled by William Burges during the 19th century and is considered some of the finest examples of his work.

Bodiam Castle, East Sussex

This spectacular, late medieval castle in East Sussex was built in the mid 1380s and its external appearance remains much the same today as it did then. The complete walls and ramparts provide a dramatic addition to the surrounding scenery, allowing visitors to be transported back in time to when the castle was used as a stronghold as well as a home.

Stirling Castle, Stirling

This historic castle is one of the finest and best-preserved Renaissance buildings in the UK and was the favoured residence for many of Scotland's kings and queens.

Caernarfon Castle, Caernarfon

A World Heritage Site, along with Edward I's other Iron Ring castles in Wales, Caernarfon Castle's pumped-up appearance is unashamedly muscle-bound and intimidating. Don't miss its polygonal towers, with the Eagle Tower being the most impressive of these, and note the colour-coded stones carefully arranged in bands.

Warwick Castle, Warwick

Built by William the Conqueror in 1068, Warwick Castle was originally a Norman fortification. The beautiful castle we see today has undergone much restoration and development as its need as a defensive structure lessened and it was transformed into a country house.

Bamburgh Castle, Northumberland

A magnificent coastal fortress, Bamburgh sits atop a granite outcrop on the North East coast in an Area of Outstanding Natural beauty and offers spectacular views of the surrounding coast and countryside. With documented records talking about a fortress here as early as 650AD it must certainly be one of the oldest castles in the country. There is stonework dating from virtually every period in history from the Anglo-Saxons through to the Victorians, when First Lord Armstrong spent over 1,000,000 pounds renovating it between 1894 and 1904.

(From *Discover Britain*³³)

II. *Use the Internet to find the correct way of pronouncing the following place names:*

1. Windsor
2. Edinburgh
3. Northumberland
4. Cardiff
5. Caernarfon
6. Warwick
7. Bamburgh

³³ 10 of the best castles in Britain // Discover Britain : [site]. URL: <https://www.discoverbritainmag.com/best-castles-in-britain/> (date of access: 20.07.2019).

III. *Find Russian equivalents to the following words and phrases.*

To round up, testament, displays of wealth and power, to stand the test of time, stronghold, to incarcerate, to stamp your mark on smth., exquisite interiors, dramatic setting, to be lavishly remodelled, to be transported back in time, intimidating, carefully arranged, to undergo restoration and development, to offer spectacular views.

IV. *Which of the ten castles would you most like to visit? Why?*

Unit 11

INTRODUCTION TO HOUSING IN GREAT BRITAIN

I. Ask and answer the questions with a partner.

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS

1. Do you like the place where you are living? What is your favourite room? Why?
2. How have you changed your home since you have started living there?
3. How long have you lived where you are living now?
4. How many different homes have you lived in? Which one did you like the best? Which one did you like the least?
5. If you could change anything about your present home, what would it be?
6. What changes would you like to make to your home?
7. What do you like about your home? What don't you like?
8. Where would your dream home be?
9. What would it be like inside and out?
10. Which room do you spend the least time in?
11. Which room do you spend the most time in?
12. Who are your neighbours?
13. Do you get along well with your neighbours?
14. How well do you know them?
15. Would you prefer to live in a house or in a flat? Why?
16. Is every house a home?
17. What makes "a house" into "a home"?
18. Have you ever been homesick?
19. Do you like to keep pets in your home?
20. Are there any parks near your home?
21. What do you think houses in the future will be like?
22. Make a list of the 10 most important things you would look for when choosing a house to live in.

23. List alternatives to a house or flat (e.g. igloo).

24. What are the advantages and disadvantages of these alternatives?
Which alternative would you prefer to live in?

25. What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in a small house/flat? And living in a big one?

(From *Conversational Questions for the ESL Classroom*³⁴)

II. *Read the following text and translate it, write out the new words and memorize them.*

HOUSING IN GREAT BRITAIN

Almost everyone in Britain dreams of living in a detached house; that is, a house which is a separate building. The saying, ‘An Englishman’s home is his castle’ is well-known. It illustrates the desire for privacy and the importance attached to ownership which seems to be at the heart of the British attitude to housing.

Introduction

There are many different types of housing in Britain, ranging from the traditional thatched country cottage to flats in the centre of towns. Houses are often described by the period in which they were built (for example, Georgian, Victorian, 1930s, or post-war) and whether they are terraced, semi-detached or detached. As well as preferring houses to flats, for many people a garden is also an important consideration. Although Britain is relatively small the areas where people live vary considerably: there are new towns and inner cities, suburbs, commuter belts and the open countryside.

In Britain, the majority of people (about 80 per cent) live in houses, as opposed to flats. Approximately fifty per cent of all families live in housing that was built after 1945.

The three most common ways of acquiring housing are: buying your own house or flat, renting your accommodation from your local council,

³⁴ Conversational Questions: Home // Conversational Questions for the ESL Classroom. The Internet TESL Journal for Teachers of English as a Second Language : [site]. URL: <http://iteslj.org/questions/home.html> (date of access: 19.07.2019).

or renting from a private person. About two-thirds of all housing is owner-occupied, about a quarter is rented from a local authority, and fewer than one in ten houses are rented from a private landlord.

Council Houses

Twenty-six per cent of the British population live in council houses. Britain is divided into a number of local government areas. Each local authority owns a number of houses, called council houses, which are available to people living in the area. Anyone can apply for a council house, although the waiting list is sometimes very long, occasionally three or four years. People who live in council houses pay the local authority a monthly rent, which is usually less than the amount that would be needed to rent a house privately, or to buy a house with a mortgage from a building society. Most people who rent council houses can buy them from their local authority if they wish.

Paying for the home you live in is the biggest single item in the budget of most families and getting on the housing 'ladder' can be difficult. First-time house buyers on an average salary may have to borrow 90 or even a hundred per cent of the value of the property they want to buy. It is possible for people to borrow up to three times their annual income or sometimes even more. As prices vary, the cost of a six-bedroom farmhouse in a remote part of Scotland is about the same as a small flat in an expensive area of West London. People moving from the north to the south of Britain have to pay a lot more for the same type of house.

The average family moves once every seven years and the process of moving involves an estate agent (responsible for advertising houses for sale), a building society, bank or insurance company for the finance and a solicitor to handle the legal aspects of the buying and selling. The size of a house or flat in Britain still tends to be measured by the number of bedrooms rather than the area in square metres. In keeping with a nation of home owners, gardening and DIY are popular spare time activities.

(From *Практика устной речи* by N. V. Kardapol'tseva³⁵)

³⁵ Кардапольцева Н. В. Практика устной речи : английский язык : учеб.-метод. пособие для студентов 1-го курса отделения романо-германской филологии. Екатеринбург, 2004. С. 6–7.

III. *Match the type of house with its description.*

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. Bungalow | a) a small house, usually with its own garden, |
| 2. Flat | found in a village or in the countryside |
| 3. Cottage | b) a house which is attached on one side |
| 4. Semi-detached house | to another house |
| 5. Terraced house | c) one of a row of houses, all attached |
| | d) one-floor section of a larger building |
| | e) a house with only one storey |

IV. *Write the transcription of the following words.*

Terraced, mortgage, average, annual.

I. *Read the following text, write out the new words and memorize them.*

HOUSES, NOT FLATS

A large, detached house not only ensures privacy. It is also a status symbol. At the extreme end of the scale there is the aristocratic 'stately home' set in acres of garden. Of course, such a house is an unrealistic dream for most people. But even a small detached house, surrounded by a garden, gives the required suggestion of rural life which is dear to the hearts of many British people. Most people would be happy to live in a cottage, and if this is a thatched cottage, reminiscent of a pre-industrial age, so much the better.

Most people try to avoid living in blocks of flats (what the Americans call 'apartment blocks'). Flats, they feel, provide the least amount of privacy. With few exceptions, mostly in certain locations in central London, flats are the cheapest kind of home. The people who live in them are those who cannot afford to live anywhere else.

The dislike of living in flats is very strong. In the 1950s millions of poorer people lived in old, cold, uncomfortable nineteenth century houses, often with only an outside toilet and no bathroom. During the next twenty years many of them were given smart new 'high rise' blocks of flats to live in which, with central heating and bathrooms, were much more comfortable and were surrounded by grassy open spaces. But people hated their new homes. They said they felt cut off from the world all those floors up. They missed the neighbourliness. They couldn't keep

a watchful eye on their children playing down there in those lovely green spaces. The new high-rise blocks quickly deteriorated. The lifts broke down. The lights in the corridors didn't work. Windows got broken and were not repaired. There was graffiti all over the walls.

In theory (and except for the difficulty with supervising children), there is no objective reason why these high-rise blocks (also known as 'tower blocks') could not have been a success. In other countries millions of people live reasonably happily in flats. But in Britain they were a failure because they do not suit British attitudes. The failure has been generally recognized for several years now. No more high-rises are being built. At the present time, only 4 % of the population live in one. Only 20 % of the country's households live in flats of any kind.

(From *Britain for Learners of English* by J. O'Driscoll³⁶)

II. *Answer the following questions to the text.*

1. In what kind of houses do people in Britain dream of living?
2. What is the main reason for this desire?
3. How would a 'stately home' look like?
4. What has 'rural life' got to do with housing in Great Britain?
5. What does a thatched cottage look like?
6. Do the British like to live in blocks of flats?
7. What is the cheapest kind of home in central London?
8. Why do a lot of people still live in blocks of flats?
9. Where did the people in Britain live in the 1950s?
10. What does a high-rise flat offer a dweller?
11. Why did the British start to hate these high-rise flats?
12. What happened to the new high-rise blocks of flats very soon?
13. What is your attitude to graffiti?
14. Do people live in high-rise blocks of flats anywhere in the world?
What about our country?
15. Do the British still build high-rise blocks of flats?

III. *Write the transcription of the following words.*

Privacy, acres, deterioration, thatched, reminiscent, graffiti.

³⁶ O'Driscoll J. *Britain for Learners of English*. 2nd ed. Oxford, 2009. P. 173.

IV. *Translate the following words and phrases into English.*

Отношение к чему-либо, придавать значение, стремление к уединенности, мечтать о чем-либо, в сердце у кого-либо, пусть так и будет, напоминаящий что-либо, расположенный в саду, окруженный, гарантировать, усадьба, сельская жизнь, требуемый, несбыточная мечта, позволить себе что-либо, месторасположение, исключение, избегать, дешевый, наименьшее количество, обеспечить, дом с соломенной крышей, многоквартирный дом, ремонтировать, ухудшаться, высотное здание, ломаться, наблюдать за кем-либо, чувствовать себя отрезанным от мира, ненавидеть, скучать по чему-либо, этаж (2), за исключением, присматривать за кем-то, успех, провал, в настоящее время, признавать.

V. *Find Russian equivalents to the following words and phrases.*

Except for, to supervise, to be reasonably happy, to suit somebody, to be a success, to recognize, household, attitudes, to repair, to break down, to deteriorate, to be cut off, to keep an eye on, high-rise, dislike, to afford, a certain location, privacy, the least amount, with a few exceptions, so much the better, to be reminiscent of, to provide, a thatched cottage, to try to avoid, a house set in..., at the extreme end of the scale, to ensure, unrealistic dream, the desire for privacy, ownership, to attach importance, at the heart of, the desire for, to dream of something.

VI. *Give your little stories about the following:*

1. Why my home is or is not my castle.
2. Is privacy necessary or not.
3. My attitude to detached houses.
4. If I were an aristocrat.
5. Rural life.
6. A house with no bathroom and an outside toilet.
7. Neighbourliness.
8. The best kind of home for children.
9. Do I like to use the lift?
10. A city with only high-rise blocks of flats.
11. A city with no high-rise blocks of flats.
12. Do good housing conditions affect the climate in the family?

Unit 12

TYPES OF HOUSES IN GREAT BRITAIN

I. Read the text paragraph by paragraph and answer the questions that follow each paragraph.

The most desirable home: a detached house

The 'traditional' building material is brick (the walls) and slate (the roof). The house has an irregular 'non-classical' shape with all those little corners, making the house feel 'cosy'. There is usually a large front garden with a tree and bushes, evoking not only the countryside but also giving a greater privacy. The garage is hidden discretely away, so that it is not too obvious and doesn't spoil the rural feeling. The front door is not too obvious either (the privacy criterion is at work here again). It usually has two or three floors and large windows.

In the recent years quite a number of detached houses have appeared on the Russian suburban and country landscape. Compare the English ones with what you have seen in our country.

Second best: a semi-detached house

Unless they are located in the remotest parts of the country, detached houses are too expensive for most people. So this is what a very large proportion of people live in: one building with two separate households. Each house (or half of it) is the mirror of the other, inside and out. These houses can be found, street after street, in the suburbs of cities and the outskirts of towns all over Britain. There is a separate front garden for each house. At the sides, there is access to the back, where there will also be two gardens. The most common building material is brick. The typical semi-detached has two floors and three bedrooms.

Try to find equivalents in our country. You will if you are attentive and look carefully.

Less desirable: a terraced house

This kind of house usually has no way through to the back except through the house itself. Each house in the row is joined to the next one. (Houses at the end of the row are a bit more desirable – they are the most like a semi-detached). They usually have two floors, with two bedrooms upstairs. Some have gardens back and front, others only at the back and others no garden at all. Before the 1960s, Britain had millions of terraced houses, most with no inside toilet or bathroom. Many of these were then knocked down, but in some areas those that have survived have become quite desirable – after repairs and building work have been carried out (gentrification).

Not typical of Russia at all. Give an explanation of the word 'gentrification'. Do we have this phenomenon in our country?

A thatched cottage

An idealized country retreat with a thatched roof that might cause a lot of trouble. (About “Thatched Cottages”, see supplement to Unit 12).

Practically non-existent in Russia. Speak about the meaning that the English word 'cottage' has acquired in Russia of late. What would our equivalent of an English cottage look like, what is it usually built of and where can you see such houses?

An exception: the town house

These houses, which can be found in the inner areas of most cities, are an exception to the general pattern. There is a great variety regarding both design and use. They often have three or more floors, perhaps including a basement or semi-basement. Although they are usually terraced, those, that are well-preserved and in a ‘good’ area may be thought highly desirable. Many have been broken up into flats or rooms for rent. Most of the comparatively small number of people who rent from private owners live in flats of this kind. Sometimes, these are ‘self-contained’ flats (they have washing and cooking facilities and it is not necessary to walk through anybody else’s flat to get to your own); sometimes, they are ‘bedsits’ (i.e. bed-sitting rooms; residents have one room to themselves and share washing and cooking facilities with other residents).

Our town houses are never terraced, but we do have similar constructions. Give equivalents that can be found in our country.

The least desirable: a flat in a block of flats

Not having a separate entrance to the outside world does not suit British tastes. Although it is densely populated, Britain has the second lowest proportion of flat-dwellers in the EU (European Union) (the lowest of all is in Ireland).

Something that is everywhere, all over the country, in every city, town and even village. Speak of these dwellings in our country. Compare our tastes with the British ones.

The stately home

There is one exception to the rule that ‘homes’ are more important than ‘houses’. This is among the aristocracy. Many of these families own fine old country houses, often with a great deal of land attached, in which they have lived for hundreds of years. They have a very great emotional investment in their houses – and are prepared to try very hard to stay in them. This can be very difficult in modern times, partly because of death duties (very high taxes which the inheritor of a large property has to pay).

So, in order to stay in their houses, many aristocrats live lives which are less physically comfortable than those of most people (they may not, for example, have central heating). Many have also turned their houses and land into tourist attractions. These are popular not only with foreign tourists. British visitors are also happy to be able to walk around in rural surroundings as they inspect a part of their country’s history.

Leftovers from the period prior to the revolution in Russia. Can you find anything similar to the stately home in our country today?

Bungalow

A dwelling of a type first developed in India, usually one-storied, with low sweeping lines and a wide verandah, now changed a bit. As a rule, not very expensive.

Where could we find something similar in our country?

Similar, but not the same

A typical suburban district. Rows of identical houses, each one placed separately from the other with only a narrow strip of land in between. You might think that living in one of these streets would be much the same as living in the one next to it. But an attempt at individuality is found here too. In Britain, there are an enormous number of words which are used in place of the word 'street' (such as *avenue*, *close*, *crescent*, *drive*, *lane* and *park*). It is quite common to find three streets next to each other named, for example, 'Pownall Close', 'Pownall Gardens', and 'Pownall Crescent'. The idea here is that one street is different from a neighbouring street not just because it has a different name – it is a different kind of place!

Finding somewhere to live

If you want to buy a house, it is very rare to deal directly with the person selling. Instead, you go to an estate agent. These companies exist solely to act as 'go-betweens' for people buying and selling houses. They help with the various procedures – and take a fat commission! If you are interested in one of the houses 'on their books', they will arrange a 'viewing'. You can also spot houses for sale by the 'For sale' signs which are put up on wooden posts outside the houses concerned.

How would you go about buying a house or flat in our country?

If you want to *rent* somewhere from a private landlord (not a council), the usual place to look is in the local newspaper (on a site today). Estate agents do not often deal with places for rent, although there are special lettings agencies.

How do you rent a room or a flat in Russia?

Another possible way of finding somewhere to live is to '*squat*'. Squatters are people who occupy empty houses without paying rent. If you do not cause any damage when moving into an empty house, you have not broken the law. If the owner wants to get you out, he or she has to get an order from the court to have you evicted.

Is there such a thing as squatting in Russia? We have very cold winters. Where do the homeless live in our country?

Alternatively, you could become a ‘*New Age Traveller*’ and live in a bus, coach or van, moving from place to place.

Can you survive the cold winter in Russia in a bus, coach or van? Do we have such ‘New Age Travellers’ who move from place to place?

Rooms: uses and names

It is difficult to generalize about how British people use the various rooms in their houses. They may like the idea of tradition, but they are too individualistic to follow the same traditional habits. The only safe generalization is that, in a house with two floors, the rooms upstairs are the ones used as bedrooms. The toilet (often separate) and bathroom are also usually upstairs. *En suite* is also very popular. It means that the bathroom is next to the bedroom, the door from the bedroom leading out into the bathroom. The living room and kitchen are downstairs. The latter is usually small, but those who can afford the space often like to have a ‘farmhouse kitchen’, big enough for the family to eat in.

Class divisions are sometimes involved in the names used for rooms. With living rooms, for example, the term ‘sitting room’ and ‘drawing room’ are regarded as upper-middle-class, while ‘lounge’ is regarded as lower class. ‘Front room’ and ‘back room’ are also sometimes looked down on. Of course there would be a ‘dining room’.

If the house is big enough with quite a number of rooms, they could bear different names, such as ‘The Oak Room’, ‘The Rose Room’ or ‘The Tulip Room’. Quite often these rooms would be decorated accordingly – oak trees, roses or tulips on the wall coverings.

How many rooms does an ordinary flat in Russia have? What do we call the rooms in our flats? What is similar and what is very different?

Owning and renting: class

In the middle years of the 20th century, whether you owned or rented a house was a marker of class. If you owned your house, you were middle class; if you lived in a council house, you were working class. However, this is no longer true. A clear majority of skilled manual workers are owner-occupiers, as are 40 % of even unskilled manual workers.

Nonetheless, the proportion of people (of any category) who own their house ‘outright’ (i.e. they have finished paying off the mortgage) is small.

(From *Britain for Learners of English* by J. O’Driscoll³⁷)

II. Read the following text, write out the new words and memorize them.

Supplement

THATCHED COTTAGES

A thatched cottage is a quintessential symbol of British village life, yet as Steve Pill discovers, this traditional craft is far from just a heritage concern.

No image of an archetypal English village is complete without a thatched cottage or two. In fact, a straw-topped dwelling is as much a part of the rural idyll as rolling fields, tolling church bells and duck ponds on the village green.

A thatched roof is not only an elegant solution to topping a beautiful old cottage, but also a communion between such a building and the rural landscape which it invariably inhabits. By crowning a house with locally grown reeds or straw, a connection is explicitly drawn between that man-made structure and the natural world that surrounds it.

Were they more commonplace in the US, a thatch would surely be the epitome of what the great American architect Frank Lloyd Wright called “organic architecture”, a philosophy promoting a harmonious relationship between human dwellings and the natural world. However, Lloyd Wright coined the famous phrase in 1939 and thatched cottages have been a feature of the British landscape and the south of England in particular, since at least the Bronze Age.

The process evolved during the Roman occupation of Britain from AD 43 onwards, as the development of basic agricultural tools made it easier for locals to harvest cereal crops for thatch (the Romans themselves insisted on clay tiles). Archeological excavations of various sites at which Vikings settled in Northern Britain unearthed many shaped stones that are thought to have weighed down ropes used in the thatching of roofs, suggesting the craft continued during the early Middle Ages.

³⁷ O’Driscoll J. *Britain for Learners of English*. P. 174–180.

William Shakespeare has a connection to two of Britain's most famous thatched properties. Anne Hathaway's Cottage in the Warwickshire village of Shottery was the childhood home of Shakespeare's wife and the place in which the couple later courted.

Anne was born in the former farmhouse in 1556, a time when thatched roofs were banned in the nearby town of Stratford-upon-Avon for fear of fire risks, but this particular building lay just outside the area of jurisdiction. Since the cottage was built in 1463, a second floor was added and the original long straw thatch has been replaced and restyled many times. With its proximity to Shakespeare's own birthplace, Anne Hathaway's Cottage remains perhaps Britain's most popular thatched property, the combed wheat reed-topped structure enjoying the attentions of the village's two million visitors each year.

Meanwhile, the roof of Shakespeare's Globe, opened in 1997 on London's Bankside, was based on the original 1599 Globe Theatre, a reed-thatched structure in which many of the Bard's plays, including *Hamlet* and *Macbeth*, were first performed. While the modern amphitheatre has the appearance of a true thatch, there is actually a fully fire-retardant lining underneath. (There has been a law against thatched buildings in London ever since the Great Fire in 1666).

Another of Britain's greatest writers, William Blake, lived in a thatched cottage in the village of Felpham from 1800 to 1803, during which time he began several of his greatest poems, including the hymnal *Jerusalem*. The cottage, one of the poet's only two surviving homes, was bought by the Blake Cottage Trust in 2015 and plans are underway to convert it into a museum.

By the 19th century, almost one million thatched properties dotted the British landscape, according to Sun Life and Royal Exchange insurance records. That number dwindled to less than 35,000 by 1960, but thatching has seen a resurgence in recent years thanks to private investment and planning controls. An English Heritage report estimated that about 24,000 listed buildings in England currently have thatched roof.

Prized yet practical

It is easy to see why a thatched roof is so prized – think of them in terms of a hairstyle for a cottage; each one temporary, individual and indicative

of the character contained within. Some are cropped neat and conditioner smooth, others a little unruly yet not without charms. Even the colour varieties are similar, from the light blonde of some “long straw” roofs to the grey-brown of reed water and the dark roofs of a smoke-blackened thatch.

While the colour is largely the result of locally available materials, many of the other characteristics of a thatched roof are dictated by more practical considerations. The steep roofs, for example, are purely a necessity so that rainwater runs off quickly – a 45-degree pitch is the minimum requirement, whereas 50 degrees is preferable. Likewise, the distinctive sweeping curve of thatch that sits over “eyebrow” windows in the eaves of any house are largely designed for purpose rather than elegance.

The distinctive personalities of various thatches mean that the creation and maintenance of them is a meticulous craft. Steve Fowler, of Oxford master thatchers Fowler & Sons, has been thatching roofs for more than 40 years. According to Steve, an average sized cottage can take around five weeks to re-thatch, while thoroughly learning the trade can take many years. “It depends on the individual,” he adds. “In a couple of years you can learn the basics and it takes another couple of years to get competent as each roof is different. You need to be able to apply what you have learnt to each individual roof.”

The key to a good thatch, he says, is keeping the surface neat, tidy and level, while also ensuring the roof is able to breathe. “Thatch has a good insulation value in the winter and can also be nice and cool in the summer,” he says. “It’s a natural, green product.”

A brighter future

That final, perhaps surprising point is key. While thatched cottages will always have a certain nostalgic charm, they are not simply a period feature. “Thatch is not only part of the rural heritage of the UK, but also a very sustainable, renewable, biological material for new builds, so it can be part of the modern vernacular building as well,” says Marjorie Sanders, the president of the National Society of Master Thatchers. Demand for the society’s apprenticeship scheme is high and, as Marjorie notes in *Thatches and Thatching*, her 2012 book co-written by Roger Angold (and containing a foreword by HRH the Prince of Wales no less), more than 700 new thatched properties are built in Britain every year.

Nevertheless, Marjorie would like to see more developers consider thatching as a viable option. While cost and ease are a factor, she believes the long-term benefits are greater, but a change in attitude and perception is required. “How much more difficult is it to forget the bottom line for a moment and think instead about the long-term sustainability of the building? This is why thatch is so important. I’m not suggesting all buildings should be thatched, but the materials we use should be much kinder to the environment.”

So next time you take a trip through the English countryside and gaze longingly at a quaint thatched cottage, take extra comfort from the fact that this traditional craft is not only aesthetically pleasing, but also pointing the way to a brighter future.

(From *Discover Britain*³⁸)

III. *Answer the following questions.*

1. What is “organic architecture”?
2. How is William Shakespeare connected to Britain’s most famous thatched properties?
3. Did William Blake live in a thatched cottage?
4. How many buildings in England currently have thatched roofs?
5. What makes thatched roofs practical?
6. Are thatched houses built in Britain now?
7. What is the future of thatched cottages?
8. Are thatched cottages possible in Russia?

IV. *Comment on the following statements from the text.*

1. “...think of them in terms of a hairstyle for a cottage.”
2. “...the creation and maintenance of them is a meticulous craft.”
3. “It’s a natural, green product.”
4. “While thatched cottages will always have a certain nostalgic charm, they are not simply a period feature.”

V. *Transcribe the following words from the text.*

Archetypal, idyll, invariably, epitome, combed, preferable, thoroughly, vernacular, resurgence, indicative, eyebrow, quaint.

³⁸ Pill S. Pitch Perfect // Discover Britain. April/May, 2017. P. 21–26.

VI. *Find Russian equivalents to the following words and phrases.*

Quintessential symbol, to draw a connection between smth. and smth., commonplace, reed, epitome, to coin a phrase, to unearth, outside the area of jurisdiction, to convert smth. into smth., dwindle, resurgence, prized, to be indicative of, smoke-blackened thatch, to get competent, insulation value, sustainable, renewable, modern vernacular building, to consider smth. as a viable option, long-term benefits, to gaze longingly at smth.

VII. *Find English equivalents to the following words and expressions.*

Дом с соломенной крышей, археологические раскопки, усеивать ландшафт, продиктованы практическими соображениями, поддержание, тщательно изучать, отправиться в путешествие по английской деревне, эстетически привлекательный.

VIII. *Find more information about the following famous thatched cottages on the Internet. Get ready to describe one of them in detail.*

1. Hardy's Cottage, Dorchester

The birthplace of Thomas Hardy, the Victorian author of "Far from the Madding Crowd", was built and thatched by his own grandfather.

2. Alexander Keiller Museum, Marlborough, Wiltshire

Adjacent to Avebury Stone Circle, this museum is partly housed in a 17th-century threshing barn whose combed wheat reed thatch is under threat from hungry jackdaws.

3. Stembridge Tower Mill, Somerset

Built in 1822, the last remaining thatched windmill in England is Grade II listed and underwent a major restoration in 2009.

4. Pencil Cottage, Shanklin Old Village, Isle of Wight

With its own tearoom, gift shop and garden overlooking Chine Hollow, this Grade II listed 1820s cottage is a popular tourist destination.

Unit 13

PRIVATE PROPERTY AND PUBLIC PROPERTY

I. Read the following text, write out the new words and memorize them.

The image of a home as a castle implies a clear demarcation between private property and the public domain. This is very clear in the case of a detached house. Flats, on the other hand, involve uncertainties. You share the corridor outside your own front door, but whom with? The other residents on the same floor or all the residents in the building? What about the foyer downstairs? Is this only for the use of the people who live in the block or for the public in general? These uncertainties perhaps explain why the 'communal' living expected of flat-dwellers has been unsuccessful in most of Britain.

Law and custom seem to support a clear separation between what is public and what is private. For example, people have no general right to reserve the road directly outside their house for their own cars. The castle puts limits on the domain of its owner as well as keeping out others. It also limits responsibility. It is comparatively rare, for example, for people to attempt to keep the bit of pavement outside their house clean and tidy. That is not their job. It is outside their domain.

To emphasize this clear division, people prefer to live in houses a little set back from the road. This way, they can have a front garden or yard as a kind of buffer zone between them and the world. These areas are not normally very big. But they allow residents to have low fences, walls or hedges around them. Usually, these barriers do not physically prevent even a two-year old child from entering, but they have psychological force. They announce to the world exactly where the private property begins. Even in the depths of the countryside, where there may be no road immediately outside, the same phenomenon can be seen.

(From *Britain for Learners of English* by J. O'Driscoll³⁹)

³⁹ O'Driscoll J. *Britain for Learners of English*. P. 174.

II. *Answer the following questions.*

1. What makes it possible to compare 'home' to a 'castle'?
2. What uncertainties do flats involve?
3. Should there be a clear separation between public property and private property?
4. Should every householder keep the piece of pavement outside his house clean and tidy?
5. What's the idea of setting the house a little bit back from the road?
6. Do the English have the custom of putting high fences round their houses?
7. What about our country? Would you put a high fence round your property if you had any?

III. *Write the transcription of the following words.*

Demarcation, communal, domain, barrier.

IV. *Find Russian equivalents to the following words and expressions.*

Image, to imply, public domain, on the one hand, on the other hand, to involve, uncertainties, the public in general, uncertainties, communal living, to put limits on, to keep out the others, comparatively, to emphasize, a little bit set back from the road, hedge.

V. *Find English equivalents to the following words and expressions.*

Подразумевать, с одной стороны, с другой стороны, у людей нет права, делить что-то с кем-то, внутри дома, снаружи дома, от людей ждут, что они будут..., держать что-то в чистоте, изгородь из кустарника, явление, ограничить ответственность.

VI. *State your case for private property and against.*

Unit 14

THE IMPORTANCE OF 'HOME'

I. Read the following text, write out the new words and memorize them.

Despite the reverence they tend to feel for 'home', British people have little deep-rooted attachment to their house as an object, or to the land on which it stands. It is the abstract idea of 'home' which is important, not the building. This will be sold when the time and price is right and its occupiers will move into some other house which they will then turn into 'home' – a home which they will love just as much as they did the previous one.

But the houses themselves are just investments. An illustration of this lack of attachment to mere houses (as opposed to homes) is that two-thirds of all inherited houses are immediately sold by the people who inherit them, even if these people have lived there themselves at some time in their lives. Another is the fact that it is extremely rare for people to commission the building of their own houses. (Most houses are commissioned either by local government authorities – for poorer people to live in – or, more frequently, by private companies known as 'property developers' who sell them on the open market.)

This attitude is so dominant that it leads to a strange approach towards house prices. Whenever these fall, it is generally regarded as a 'bad thing'. You might think that it would be a good thing, because people can then find somewhere to live more cheaply. After all, it is rising prices that are usually regarded as bad. But with houses it is the other way around. Falling prices mean that most people cannot afford to sell their house. They have borrowed a lot of money to buy it (sometimes more than its present value). They are stuck! To most British people, such immobility is a terrible misfortune.

(From *Britain for Learners of English* by J. O'Driscoll⁴⁰)

⁴⁰ O'Driscoll J. *Britain for Learners of English*. P. 176.

II. *Give your explanation of why it is bad when house prices fall.*

III. *Answer the following questions to the text.*

1. Just how strongly are the British attached to their houses as an object?

2. What happens to two-thirds of all inherited houses in Britain?

3. Do people in Britain often commission the building of their own house?

4. Who are the 'property developers'?

IV. *Write the transcription of the following words.*

Reverence, misfortune.

V. *Give Russian equivalents to the following words and expressions.*

As much as, to turn into, occupier, when the time and place is right, deep-rooted attachment, reverence, to commission, to inherit, lack of attachment, the previous one, government authorities, mere, the open market, attitude, it is generally regarded, the other way round, to afford, to borrow, to be stuck, misfortune.

VI. *Use the above words and expressions to make up your own sentences.*

VII. *Speak on:*

1. Reverence for home.

2. Deep-rooted attachment to a house.

3. House as an investment.

4. Property developers.

5. Rising and falling prices.

6. Borrowing money to buy a house.

I. *Read and translate the following text. Get ready to describe Britain's ideal home: what are the most preferred features of an ideal house for the British?*

What Does the UK's Perfect Home Look Like?

Two fifths of us dream of a custom-built house, but what would the nation's ultimate home actually look like?

Well, according to the latest survey results from GoCompare, it's an eco-minimalist detached home complete with three bedrooms and a modest, medium-sized garden – so not quite the Disney princess castle we've been dreaming of here at Propertymark!

As part of an online survey, GoCompare asked 2,005 randomly selected UK adults what they would want in their perfect pad. So where would the UK's ideal home be and what would it actually look like?

Location

Location is everything when it comes to a forever home and a third of respondents (33 per cent) placed their ideal property in a village, with one in five (19 per cent) opting for a small town. And while most desire a slower pace of life, for Londoners, staying connected to city life was important with 70 per cent saying they'd need to live within commuting distance of a big city.

Interior design and style

Although a modern, simply designed sustainable home was favoured by more than a quarter of participants (28 per cent), a more traditional route was taken when picking interiors. Over half (52 per cent) selected either a traditional or a country house style for their interior, creating the perfect balance between grand design and lived-in comfort.

Layout

Along with a traditional interior design, a conventional layout is preferred with 55 per cent opting for communal rooms, such as the kitchen and living room, downstairs and bedrooms upstairs. Scottish homeowners were more open to breaking with tradition, with a third picking a mixture of rooms across both floors. Meanwhile, more than 14 per cent of Londoners pushed traditional boundaries even further, opting for communal rooms upstairs and bedrooms downstairs.

Storage

We're all guilty of hoarding things we no longer need, so naturally storage was an important factor when designing the ideal home. When it came to selecting additional rooms, the three most sought-after spaces were a garage (46 per cent), a conservatory (40 per cent) and a utility

room (36 per cent). The need for storage wasn't just limited to the house however, nearly two thirds also selected the option for a shed in the garden.

Outdoor space

Overall, a fuss-free garden was favoured, with a quarter or participants opting for simplicity. Yorkshire and the Humber proved the biggest nature lovers with 27 per cent preferring a wildlife-friendly garden. This was closely followed by the North East with 24 per cent and Scotland with 23 per cent. Water features also proved to be popular additions, with a quarter craving a pond and 24 per cent splashing out on a hot tub.

Eco-friendly additions

Awareness of global warming and climate change seems to be taking effect, with the majority of participants choosing to include eco-friendly features in their ideal home. Solar panels proved the most popular with 59 per cent opting for them, with respondents from Wales (71 per cent), the South West (68 per cent) and the North West (63 per cent) most likely to use them. Half of respondents also said they'd include rainwater harvesting features, and 46 per cent would add eco-friendly lighting.

So how much is the house worth?

GoCompare spoke to Propertymark Protected agents CPS Homes and here's what they had to say: "It's all about location really and the demand for certain areas is what really influences prices. Factors which largely increase demand include school catchment areas, good transport links, the health service provisions available, employment opportunities as well as areas of natural beauty."

(From *Pinks Homes*⁴¹)

II. Find Russian equivalents to the following words and phrases.

Custom-built, ultimate home, randomly selected, respondent, pad, when it comes to..., to opt for, to live within commuting distance of a big

⁴¹ What does the UK's perfect home look like? // Pinks Homes. January 25 2018 : [site]. URL: <https://www.pinkshomes.co.uk/news-updates/what-does-the-uks-perfect-home-look-like.html> (date of access: 23.07.2019).

city, to pick, lived-in comfort, to break with tradition, to push traditional boundaries, communal room, to hoard things, sought-after, conservatory, utility room, shed, to crave, solar panels, rainwater harvesting features, eco-friendly lighting, school catchment areas.

III. *Find English equivalents to the following words and phrases.*

Опрос, замедление темпа жизни, традиционный дизайн интерьера, планировка дома (расположение комнат), хранение, любители природы, влиять на цены, повышать спрос, транспортные связи.

Unit 15

INDIVIDUALITY AND CONFORMITY

I. *Read the following text, write out the new words and memorize them.*

Flats are not unpopular just because they do not give enough privacy. It is also because they do not allow enough scope for the expression of individuality. People like to choose the colour of their own front door and window frames, and also to choose what they are going to do with a little bit of outside territory, however small that may be.

The opportunity which it affords for individual self-expression is another advantage of the front garden. In any one street, some are paved, some are full of flowerbeds with paths in between, others are just patches of grass, others are a mixture of these. Some are demarcated by walls, others by fences, others by privet hedges and some have no barrier at all. The possibilities for variety are almost endless.

However, not everything about housing in Britain displays individuality. Because most houses are built by organizations, not individuals, they are not usually built one at a time. Instead, whole streets, even neighbourhoods (often called 'estates'), are built at the same time. For reasons of economy, all the houses on an estate are usually built to the same design. Viewed from the air, adjacent streets in British towns often seem to be full of houses that are identical (*similar, but not the same*). Indeed, they are so similar that when a building company advertises a new estate, it often invites people to its 'show home'. This is just one of the houses, but by looking around it, people can get a fairly accurate impression of any house on the estate.

But if, later, you walked down the same street that you saw from the air, every single house would seem different. The residents will have made sure of that! In an attempt to achieve extra individuality, some people even give their house a name (although others regard this

as pretentious). In suburbs and towns, there is a constant battle going on between the individualistic desires of the householder and the necessity for some element of regimentation in a densely populated area. This contest is illustrated by the fact that anybody who wants to build an extension to their house, or even a garden shed, must (if it is over a certain size) first get 'planning permission' from the local authorities.

(From *Britain for Learners of English* by J. O'Driscoll⁴²)

II. *Answer the following questions to the text.*

1. Why are flats unpopular in Great Britain?
2. What role does the little bit of outside territory around the house play?
3. How would you fix up your front garden if you had one?
4. How does a building company build houses? Is there much individuality in the way these houses are constructed?
5. If you had a house would you give it a name? What name would you give it?
6. Do you think 'planning permission' is a good thing? Why or why not?

III. *Write the transcription of the following words.*

Privacy, demarcated, adjacent, pretentious, regimentation.

IV. *Use the following words and expressions in situations of your own.*

1. Unpopular, privacy, enough scope, to choose, outside territory.
2. To afford an opportunity, advantage, to pave, patch of grass, mixture, to demarcate, hedge, barrier, variety.
3. Not to be built one at a time, instead, neighbourhood, at the same time, reasons of economy, same design, adjacent, identical, to advertise, 'show home', to get an impression, fairly accurate.
4. Residents, to make sure of smth., to achieve individuality, extra, to regard, pretentious, suburb, householder, element of regimentation, densely populated area, local authorities.

⁴² O'Driscoll J. *Britain for Learners of English*. P. 176–177.

Video 6

“A Special Place”

I. *In the programme Heather and Sue show us their favourite rooms and tell us about some of the objects that have special meaning for them. Before you watch the video clip⁴³, read the information about Heather and Sue. What kind of objects do you expect to find in their homes?*

Heather is married to a company director and has two children. Heather met and married her husband, Michael, when she was twenty-four. She gave up a promising career in law to look after their traditional country house and bring up their children. Heather is interested in her family history and has kept many of her ancestors' possessions.

Sue is a teacher and writer, has one grown-up son and lives alone in a Victorian townhouse in the heart of England. Sue's family is very important to her and her son, brother, sisters and parents all live nearby. She has taught English for twenty years during which time she has travelled the world.

II. *Watch the first part of the programme (00:00–03:57).*

1. What has been in Heather's family for generations?
2. Who did she get her oak table from?
3. What does she say she is fond of?
4. What other family heirloom does she mention?
5. Who did her porcelain tea service use to belong to?
6. What is her favourite part of the room?
7. What does she do before she has her morning coffee?

III. *Watch the second part of the programme (03:58–07:46).*

1. What does Sue say she is fond of?
2. Where exactly is the carving of the lizard?
3. Which object did Sue fall in love with on her travels?
4. Where did her stone lion come from?

⁴³ A Special Place // Inside Out: Video Lesson 4. March 2013 : [site]. URL: <http://www.insideout.net/blog/elessons/video-lesson-4-a-special-place> (date of access: 24.07.2019).

5. Which object has particular meaning for Sue?
6. Who painted her portrait?
7. What does she do in her room?

IV. *Discuss the following questions.*

1. Did either of the rooms in the programme look like they could be in your country?
2. What looked similar and what looked different?
3. Are the lifestyles of Sue or Heather similar to those in your country?
4. What are the similarities and differences?
5. What do their rooms tell us about Sue and Heather's characters?

(From *A Special Place*⁴⁴)

V. *Give English equivalents to the following words and phrases.*

Дом приходского священника, полный света и воздуха, красивый каменный пол, отражать свет, центральное место дома, собираться дважды в день за завтраком и ужином, достопримечательности комнаты, плита, согревать дом, прапрабабушка, старомодный уют, дорогая отметина (дорогой отпечаток), фамильная ценность, фарфоровый чайный сервиз, буфет, французское окно (окно, доходящее до пола), поддерживать в хорошем состоянии, выполнять работу по хозяйству, это сработало, резной орнамент в виде ящериц по всему дому, прежние хозяева, во время празднования золотой свадьбы, на рынке Иордании, музыкальный инструмент из Перу, диванные подушки из Стамбула, проводить много времени торгуясь, значительно превышать допустимый вес, платить дополнительно за перевес багажа, купить во время путешествий, огромные удобные диваны.

⁴⁴ A Special Place // Inside Out: Video Lesson 4, Student's Worksheets. March 2013 : [site]. URL: <http://www.insideout.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Upp-Int-Unit-8-A-special-place.pdf> (date of access: 24.07.2019).

Unit 16

INTERIORS:

THE IMPORTANCE OF COSINESS

I. Read the following text, write out the new words and memorize them.

British houses have the reputation for being the coldest in Europe.

Moreover, to many people from other countries, British people seem to be ridiculously keen on 'fresh air'. This reputation is exaggerated. It is partly the result of the fact that houses in Britain are, on average, older than they are in other countries and are not so well insulated. In fact, about three-quarters now have central heating. However, there is a grain of truth in it. Windows, for example, are designed so that they can be conveniently opened to a great variety of degrees – instead of, as in many other countries, either being completely shut or fully open. This way, air can be let into a house in winter without freezing its inhabitants.

Just as the British idea of home is a mental concept as much as a physical reality, so is their idea of domestic comfort. The important thing is to feel cosy – that is, to create an atmosphere which seems warm. This desire usually has priority over aesthetic concerns, which is why the British also have a reputation for bad taste. Most people would rather buy several items of cheap, mass-produced furniture, with chairs and sofas covered in synthetic material, than one more beautiful and more physically comfortable item. The same is true with regard to ornaments – if you want to be cosy, you have to fill the room up.

To many, tradition is part of cosiness, and this can be suggested by being surrounded by old items of furniture. And if you cannot have furniture which is old, you can always have other things that suggest age. The open fire is an example. In Britain, it is regarded by many as very desirable to have 'a real fire' (as it is often called). It is the perfect traditional symbol of warmth because it is what most people used in the past

to keep warm. So strong is the attraction of a ‘real fire’ that many houses have an imitation open fire, complete with plastic coal which glows red when it is switched on. Bad taste? So what!

Most older houses, even very small ones, have not one but two general living rooms (which estate agents call ‘reception rooms’). This arrangement maintains privacy (which is linked to cosiness). It allows the front room to be kept for comparatively formal visits, while family members and close friends can spend their time, safely hidden from public view, in the back room. Most modern smaller houses are built with just one living room (and in some older houses the two reception rooms have been converted into one). However, privacy must be preserved so these houses normally have a ‘hall’ onto which the front door opens. It is rare for it to open straight onto the living room. Some houses also have a tiny ‘porch’, with its own door, through which people pass before getting to the hall – an extra line of defense! The same concern can be seen where there is both a front door and a back door. Even if both can be reached from the street, the back door is for family and close friends only.

(From *Britain for Learners of English* by J. O’Driscoll⁴⁵)

II. *Answer the following questions to the text:*

1. What is ‘fresh air’ for the British?
2. Why are houses in Britain not so well insulated?
3. How are windows in Britain designed? What about windows in Russia? Which do you prefer?
4. How do you see cosiness?
5. Why do the British have a reputation for bad taste?
6. What would you choose: beautiful expensive furniture or one that is cheap and mass-produced and why?
7. Should a room be ornamented to make it look cosier?
8. What is your attitude to an open fire (a real one) in a room?
9. Would that real open fire keep you very warm?
10. Do you think that an imitation open fire is bad taste?

⁴⁵ O’Driscoll J. *Britain for Learners of English*. P. 177–179.

11. How do you see the living room in your flat?
12. Do we have any 'back rooms'?
13. Is the idea of 'hall' (зал или зала) still alive in Russia?
14. How do the British see a porch?
15. What is the function of such a thing as *прихожая* in Russian flats?
16. Some flats built for important people in Russia before WWII have two outlets – one front and one back one. What is your opinion of that? Do you think it's a good thing?

III. *Write the transcription of the following words.*

Exaggerate, conveniently.

I. *Read the following text, write out the new words and memorize them.*

OWNING AND RENTING

Most British people do not 'belong' to a particular place, nor are they usually brought up in a long-established family house to which they can always return. Perhaps this is why they are not usually content to rent their accommodation. Wherever they are, they like to put down roots.

The desire to own the place where you can live is almost universal in Britain. However, house prices are high. This dilemma is overcome by the mortgage system, which is probably a more established aspect of everyday life than it is anywhere in the world. About 70 % of all the houses in the country are occupied by their owners and almost all of these were bought with a mortgage. At any one time, half of these are owned by people who have borrowed 80 % (or even more) of their price and are now paying this money back month by month. The normal arrangement is for the borrower to pay back the money over a period of twenty to twenty-five years. The financial institutions known as 'building societies' were originally set up to provide mortgages. In the 1980s, however, regulations were relaxed, so that banks now offer mortgages as well.

People are happy to take out mortgages because house prices normally increase a bit faster than the general cost of living. Therefore,

most people can make a profit when they sell their house. So strong is this expectation that phrases such as ‘first-time buyer’ and ‘second-time buyer’ are well-known. The former can only afford one of the cheaper houses available. But around ten years later, when some of their mortgage has been paid off, they can become the latter. They sell their house at a profit and move to a more expensive house.

Although nearly everybody wants to own their house, it was only at the end of the twentieth century that a majority of people began to do so. Before that time, most working-class people lived in rented accommodation. At one time, most of them rented from private landlords, some of whom exploited them badly. In the 1950s and 1960s, however, millions of homes were built by local government authorities. By 1977, two-thirds of all tenants lived in these ‘council houses’ (or, in some cases, flats). Council rents are subsidized, so they are low. Each local council keeps a waiting list of households who want to move into a council property. The order of preference is worked out by a complicated set of priorities. Once they are given a council house, tenants have security; that is, they do not have to move out even if they become rich.

From 1950 to 1980 the proportion of ‘owner-occupiers’ gradually increased. The ambition to own was made easier by policies of ‘tax relief’. Some of the interest which people paid on their mortgage could be subtracted from the income tax they had to pay and people selling their houses did not have to pay ‘capital gains tax’ on any profit. With both owner-occupiers and council tenants increasing in numbers, the percentage of people who rented from private landlords became one of the lowest in the world – and continues to be so.

Then during the 1980s, the number of owner-occupiers increased more sharply. A major part of the philosophy of Thatcherism (under Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher) was the idea of the ‘property-owning democracy’. Council tenants were allowed to buy their council houses and were given financial incentives to do so. The de-regulation of mortgage-lending also encouraged house-buying. So did an increase in the financial help given to owners who wanted to make improvements to their property. At the same time, local councils were severely limited in the number of properties which they could build and were also encouraged to sell

their properties to private ‘housing associations’. As a result, the number of council tenants decreased.

By the mid 1990s, the trends of the previous decade seemed to have halted. Fewer council-house tenants were buying their houses and tax relief on mortgages was being phased out. The policy of selling off council houses has been discredited by the ‘homes-for-votes’ scandal. In the early 1990s it became clear that a few local councils run by the Conservative Party had decided to keep their properties empty, instead of renting them to families who needed them, until they found buyers for them. The idea was that the buyers would probably vote Conservative – while people who could only afford to rent would probably not.

(From *Britain for Learners of English* by J. O’Driscoll⁴⁶)

II. *Answer the following questions.*

1. Do most British people ‘belong’ to a particular place?
2. Why aren’t they usually content to rent their accommodation?
3. How is the dilemma of high house prices overcome in Britain today?
4. What is the ‘mortgage system’?
5. How many years does the borrower usually pay back the money?
6. What increases faster: house prices or the general cost of living?
7. What may be the expectations of a ‘first-time buyer’ and those of a ‘second-time buyer’?
8. Where did most working-class people live before the end of the 20th century?
9. What is a ‘council house’?
10. What is ‘tax relief’?
11. What was the philosophy of Thatcherism?
12. Why did the number of council tenants decrease under Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher?
13. What was the ‘homes-for-votes’ scandal about?

⁴⁶ O’Driscoll J. *Britain for Learners of English*. P. 179–180.

III. *Write the transcription of the following words.*

Thatcher (Thatcherism), increase (*noun*).

IV. *Give Russian equivalents to the following words and expressions.*

To bring up, long-established family house, to be content, to put down roots, to overcome, mortgage system, at any one time, to pay back, borrower, the normal arrangement is..., to provide, to be set up, to relax regulations, cost of living, to be available, private landlord, waiting list, household, government authorities, order of preference, complicated set of priorities, to have security, proportion, to subtract, income tax, property-owning democracy, financial incentives, to make improvements, to run a party (newspaper, factory), to run for president, instead of.

V. *Choose five of the words and expressions given above to make up situations of your own.*

VI. *Translate the following phrasal verbs and make up sentences of your own with them:*

- 1) to put (down, up with, away, forward);
- 2) to set (up, down, off);
- 3) to run (a factory, for president, away, out of smth., down smb., back, up to).

Unit 17

HOMELESSNESS

I. Read the following text, write out the new words and memorize them.

In 1993 it was estimated that there were half a million homeless people in Britain – that's one of the highest proportions of the population in all the countries of Europe. The supply of council housing is limited, and has decreased since the 1980s because of the sale of council houses and the lack of money available for building new ones. In addition, many council houses and flats were badly built and are now uninhabitable. Laws passed in the 1970s to increase the security of tenants renting from private landlords made it less profitable for people to let out their houses, so the supply of private accommodation for rent has also gone down. There are large numbers of people who can't afford to rent somewhere to live privately, who are not eligible for council accommodation (and who would probably be at the end of a long waiting list if they were) and who certainly can't afford to buy a house or flat. Finally, as elsewhere in Western Europe, the average size of the households has become smaller, so that, although the population is increasing only very slowly, more places to live are still needed.

In the early 1990s many people who previously thought that they were secure in their own homes suddenly faced the prospect of homelessness. They had taken out large mortgages to buy their homes at a time when the country was going through an economic boom and house prices were rising (and looked as if they would continue to rise). Many of these people lost their jobs in the recession and so could no longer afford the monthly mortgage payments. To make matters worse, the value of houses, unusually, fell sharply at this time. They had to sell their homes, often for less than they bought them, and so were in debt as well as homeless.

Most homeless families are provided with temporary accommodation in boarding houses (small privately run guest houses or ‘bed and breakfasts’) by their local council. It is the duty of local authorities to house homeless families. Some families, and many single people, find even more temporary shelter in hostels for the homeless which are run by charitable organizations. Thousands of single people simply live on the streets, where they ‘sleep rough’. The phrase ‘cardboard city’ became well-known in the 1980s to describe areas of big cities, particularly London, where large numbers of homeless people camped out, protected from the weather only by cardboard boxes.

Solving the problem of homelessness is not a political priority for the British government, partly because the level of public awareness of the situation is low (in spite of the efforts of charities such as Shelter, who give advice to the homeless and who campaign on their behalf). In many cases, the homeless are those with personal problems which make it difficult for them to settle down. In some cases, they are people who simply don’t want to ‘settle down’ and who wouldn’t class themselves as homeless. These are, for example, several thousand ‘travellers’ in the country, both traditional gypsies who have led a nomadic life for generations, and more recent converts to this lifestyle (often known as ‘New Age Travellers’). Their homes are the vehicles in which they move from place to place, and they are often persecuted by unsympathetic authorities. For these people, the problem is not that they are ‘homeless’ but in the official attitude towards their way of life.

(From *Britain for Learners of English* by J. O’Driscoll⁴⁷)

II. *Answer the following questions to the text.*

1. Approximately how many homeless people were there in Britain in 1993? Do you think this number has increased or decreased since?
2. Why has the supply of council housing decreased?
3. Why are many council houses and flats now uninhabitable?
4. Why has the supply of private accommodation for rent also gone down?

⁴⁷ O’Driscoll J. *Britain for Learners of English*. P. 180–181.

5. What does 'the average size of households has become smaller' mean?

6. What happened to a lot of people in the early 1990s during the recession?

7. What is a mortgage?

8. What are most homeless families provided with in Britain?

9. What are the local authorities to do if a family becomes homeless?

10. What is run by charitable organizations? Do we have any in our country?

11. What do the words 'sleep rough' mean?

12. Do you think there are people who simply like it 'rough'? Do all people want 'to settle down'?

13. What is 'a cardboard city'? Is such a thing possible in our country?

14. How does 'Shelter' help people?

15. In your opinion what kind of personal problems could a lot of the homeless have?

16. Who are the 'travellers' or 'New Age Travellers'?

17. What do you know about the lifestyle of the gypsies?

18. What role do vehicles (caravans) play in the life of the homeless today?

III. *Write the transcription of the following words.*

Profitable, eligible, persecute, unsympathetic.

IV. *Give Russian equivalents to the following words and phrases.*

To estimate, a high proportion, council housing, supply, to increase, to decrease, lack of money available, in addition, uninhabitable, to pass a law, the security of tenants, to let out a house, private accommodation, to afford smth., to be eligible, a long waiting list, average size, to be secure, mortgage, an economic boom, recession, no longer, to make matters worse, to be in debt, boarding house, privately run guest house, local authorities, hostel, temporary shelter, charity, to solve a problem, public awareness, in spite of, on smb.'s behalf, to settle down, nomadic life, for generations, vehicle, to be persecuted, political priority, official attitude.

V. Give English equivalents to the following words and phrases.

Высокий процент, недостаточное количество средств, к тому же, уверенность в завтрашнем дне, сдавать жилье, очередь, позволить себе что-либо, ранее, средний, в начале 1990-х годов, ипотека, столкнуться с чем-либо, подъем в экономике, спад в экономике, резко упасть, временное жилье, благотворительность, одинокие (без семьи), в частности, несмотря на (2), защищать, решить проблему, усилие, кочевник, поколение, средство передвижение, преследовать за что-то.

VI. Make up situations or dialogues with the following words and phrases.

1. To estimate, homeless, proportion, to limit, to decrease, sale, to inhabit, available, to afford.

2. Rent, to go down, to be eligible for, to let, the average size, household, to be needed.

3. To increase, previously, to be secure, mortgage, house price, recession, payment, can no longer afford.

4. To be in debt, to sell for less, temporary accommodation, boarding house, local authorities, homeless families.

5. Charitable organizations, single people, to sleep rough, cardboard city, well-known, particularly.

6. To be protected from the weather, to camp out, to solve the problem, level of public awareness, efforts of charities.

7. In spite of, to give advice, on behalf of, to campaign, to settle down, political priority, both... and.

8. Nomadic life, to be persecuted, official attitude, to move from place to place, way of life.

Unit 18

RUSSIAN AND BRITISH HOME LIFE

I. Read the text and get ready to speak about the contrasts between Russian and British home life.

HOW WE LIVE IN OUR HOMES.

A COMPARISON WITH RUSSIAN HOME LIFE

Few young people who move into their first home are able to furnish it completely. They buy something here and something there. They look for cheap or second-hand furnishings; perhaps their grandparents are ready to pass on a chest of drawers or a cupboard; perhaps they see an advertisement in the local paper offering a table for a very cheap price. Creating your own home is a slow but enjoyable activity. And a great deal can be done with a paint-pot and some elementary techniques in repairing and decorating.

Among the many contrasts between Russian and British (especially English) life is the contrast between living on the ground and living in the air. In your muddy or snowy Russian climate, you enter a large building, walk up stairs or crown into a lift, and arrive at a front door – often a forbidding front door covered with bars and locks that seems to be saying ‘Keep out!’ – and there you stand waiting to be let in. Inside you will take off your outer coats, your scarves, hats, gloves, maybe your inner warm clothes, your shoes, and put on slippers. Now you are in a cosy, friendly, warm bubble. But if your friends live in a house in England’s temperate climate, you will come from the street straight to the front door (which is probably painted a bright colour and tries to say ‘Come in!’). If you are English, you are unlikely to be wearing a hat and gloves, but you will wear a light coat if it is winter or early spring. You wipe your shoes on a doormat, but you do not expect to change them. The house may not feel very warm. The windows are open and perhaps the first thing you do is to walk out of the back door into the back garden

to admire the flowers. No matter what month, if it isn't pouring with rain, the outside is immediately available to you. You may find yourself standing around, inside or outside, because it does not make much difference. You may go with your hosts to cut some flowers to decorate the table. Children will go in and out. Cats and dogs will go in and out. If there are small children around, you will be warned not to leave the front door open in case a child runs out into the road, but if this is not a problem the front and back doors will open and shut with casual regularity. Even when Russians think it is cold in Britain – say, between +3 and +14 – the British do not expect to put their outdoor clothes on every time they go outside. Fresh air is nice, and we are not going to freeze. We find the Russian insistence on wrapping up as though the temperature is 10 below when actually it is +10 very strange.

One obvious consequence is that British homes tend to be less tidy and less clean than Russian homes. A small flat is easier to clean than a house with several rooms on two storeys, even if it is quite small. If house and garden are intermingling, there will be traces of dirt, bits of grass will wander into the house, flowers will drop their leaves and petals. Moreover, although in Britain as in Russia, some people are naturally 'house-proud', we are culturally less inclined to worry about cleaning and scrubbing and keeping everything everywhere very tidy. So, if you enter a house that seems not to have been dusted for a week or so, do not be surprised. Your hosts are not being rude, they simply have different standards and priorities.

As for the furnishings, as a general rule, Russians who can afford to buy new things for their flat will make sure that their furniture is new. Rich Russians make sure that everything is new. In Britain, houses have much more of a mixture of new and old. Families inherit furniture from parents and grandparents. Sometimes they hate it and pass it on to someone else; sometimes they preserve it proudly. Many of us search deliberately for old things in antique and second-hand shops, partly because much furniture that has survived one hundred and fifty years or more, will be hand-crafted and well-made. Also there is a pleasure in using a table that has been used, say, for two hundred years. You can feel its history in its polished surface, in its stains and marks and imperfections. It is possible to love such furniture. Part of its attraction is that it is not perfect,

it is used. So if you sit down in some British homes you may be surprised to find how shabby and worn the furniture is, even though your hosts appear to have enough money to buy new furniture. The point is that they prefer what they have.

This delight in old wood, old china, old pictures and so on does not extend to electrical equipment, such as fridges and washing machines, where, on the whole, new technology is to be preferred! We still have different taps for hot and cold water, and expect to put a plug in the hole in the basin and wash ourselves or our dishes in a limited amount of water. Russians think this is ridiculous and even painful since it is easy to scald oneself on hot water unmixed with cold water. The British are used to the inconveniences, but feel very uncomfortable about washing dishes under running water. We say to ourselves: "Think of how much hot water we are wasting!"

British visitors to Russia almost always return saying how charmed they were by the clean, cared-for and friendly flats of their Russian friends. Just as often they admit to being appalled by external conditions: dirty stairways, smelly lifts, uncared-for entrances. There are two reasons for this. First, almost all British visitors to Russia come from the prosperous or reasonably prosperous middle-classes. They do not come from poor and ill-kept housing estates in the grimmer parts of British cities which have similar ugly external conditions. Secondly, because we are used to gardens in a temperate climate we think of the outsides of our houses as places for more flowers and bushes, a little painted gate or some other kind of cheerful display. I doubt if we would be better than Russians at living in communal conditions, except perhaps in one matter. We would provide better benches for elderly people to sit down at entrances, for we have a good tradition about seats and benches. When someone dies who has loved a particular spot in a park or near his house, his friends will sometimes gather money to 'donate' an outdoor seat in his memory. The seat is set up for people to enjoy the same spot or the same view, with a little notice on it remembering the dead person.

The Absence of Dachas

We do not have dachas and therefore we do not have a dacha culture. So what do we have instead?

If we want to be outside, we can sit or work in our own garden attached to the house. It is almost certainly much smaller than a dacha plot of land, but it is immediately accessible. If we want to do more gardening than our own gardens allow we can rent an allotment which is land owned by the local municipality for those who want to grow vegetables and fruit.

A small minority of prosperous people own a 'second home'. This second home will be a long way away – at least two or three hours by car, which by our standards is indeed a long way. The second home is usually an old (and often inconvenient) building in some beautiful part of the country, where it can be used as a holiday home rather than an extra place for gardening and growing vegetables. It will be inhabited during occasional weekends throughout the year and for a few weeks in the summer. Many second-home owners rent them out to other holiday-makers when they are not using them to help cover the costs of this expensive luxury. Second homes are simply not available to 95 % of the population, so we make different arrangements both for holidays and for weekend relaxation.

(From *Understanding Britain Today* by K. Hewitt⁴⁸)

II. *Transcribe the following words from the text.*

Drawer, cupboard, glove, consequence, grandparent, prosperous.

III. *Find Russian equivalents to the following words and phrases.*

To furnish, furnishings, muddy, to take off one's outer coats, to wipe one's shoes on a doormat, to wrap up, to intermingle, inclined to, to search deliberately for smth., shabby, worn, to put a plug in the hole in the basin, to scald oneself on, stairways, to live in communal conditions, allotment.

IV. *Comment on the following statements from the text.*

1. "Creating your own home is a slow but enjoyable activity."
2. "Now you are in a cosy, friendly, warm bubble."
3. "So if you enter a house that seems not to have been dusted for a week or so, do not be surprised."
4. "Just as often they admit to being appalled by external conditions: dirty stairways, smelly lifts, uncared-for entrances."

⁴⁸ Hewitt K. *Understanding Britain Today*. Oxford, 2009. P. 57–60.

Учебное издание

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Старший преподаватель кафедры германской филологии Уральского федерального университета. Ведет занятия по английскому языку в департаменте «Филологический факультет» (отделения «Фундаментальная и прикладная лингвистика» и «Современные иностранные языки и литература»), а также по второму иностранному языку (английскому) на отделении РКИ для иностранных учащихся. На отделении «Современные иностранные языки и литература» ведет занятия по литературному чтению. Сфера научных интересов — изменение лексических и грамматических явлений в литературном английском языке на протяжении последних 200 лет на материале английской литературы первой половины XIX века.



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